SUBJECT: Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
POLICY: 1001.1 Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
RELATED PROCEDURE: 1001.1.1 Animal User and PI Training Requirements
1001.1.2 Protocol Review Process
1001.1.3 IACUC Member Training and Continuing Education
1001.1.4 Veterinary Verification and Consultation
EFFECTIVE: April 2024 **REVISED:** **REVIEWED:**

Introduction and Purpose

Great Falls College MSU is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and teaching programs on campus and at campus affiliated clinical locations. The use of animals in research and teaching is a privilege carrying with it unique professional and moral obligations to ensure that animals are treated humanely and in accordance with the regulations of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy) and other laws and policies of the federal government and other agencies. Great Falls College has placed the responsibility for all aspects of animal welfare with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Policy

The college depends on the IACUC to oversee animal welfare programs and the animal facilities, including off-campus clinical sites. The IACUC reviews teaching protocols, and regulates the use of animals for research, teaching and testing. The IACUC serves as an educational and informational resource for the campus community in all aspects of animal welfare. The committee relies on current and relevant law, regulation, and policy, as well as the demands of rational moral concern, when making policy decisions.

Membership

The IACUC shall consist of at least five members, which shall include:

- The Attending Veterinarian (AV), with overall program authority;
- The program director for the Veterinary Technician program
- At least one member who is nonaffiliated with Great Falls College

The committee may invite ad hoc consultants who are subject matter experts in areas relevant to complex issues requiring expertise beyond that represented on the committee. These consultants may not vote.

Responsibilities

- The committee shall be aware of the location and nature of all activities involving the use of live, vertebrate animals at the college, for the purposes of research teaching, and/or testing.
- Before initiation of any research, teaching, and/or testing activities involving live, vertebrate animals, the committee shall review and approve a protocol describing such use or require modification to a protocol (e.g. amendment request).
- The committee may disapprove and/or suspend activity on previously approved projects if the protocol is not in compliance with Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHP), USDA regulations or Great Falls College's IACUC policies and guidelines.

- The committee shall meet at least semi-annually to inspect animal facilities and review the animal care program to ensure compliance with applicable policies and regulations.

Enforcement

- The IACUC may take appropriate actions to ensure compliance with its determinations, as outlined in policy 1003.1 Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns. In general, these may include corrective actions or suspension of a protocol.
- The attending veterinarian, their delegates, and all clinical veterinarians have the authority to suspend an animal activity if they deem there is an immediate threat to the animal's wellbeing.
- Great Falls College takes seriously concerns regarding the care and use of animals at the institution that are raised by faculty, staff, students, committee members, or individuals in the community. The college respects the rights of whistleblowers under the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs) and other federal regulations, which prohibits discrimination against or reprisal for reporting violations of the AWRs. Animal welfare concerns may be directed to the IACUC chair or any member of the IACUC, the acting veterinarian, or the clinical veterinarians. Individuals reporting concerns will be protected from retaliation.

References

US Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
US Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Regulations
US Animal Welfare Regulations