Policies Regarding Use of Animals in Research

5.94  Research-General Principles (See Also Chapter 3 for Ethics and Conduct Policies)

C. Protections in Research Involving the Use of Animals. As a land grant institution, it is the university’s role to conduct, if not lead, research designed to optimize the use of animals in the service of man, and to advance human and animal welfare. Consistent with applicable law and regulations, the university supports the use of animals in research, education, and as agricultural resources, provided that the usage is reasonably expected to advance knowledge about human or animal welfare. It is the university’s policy to meet all federal and state standards and regulations applicable to animal use.

The university has established the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to administer policies and procedures regarding university care and use of vertebrate animals. (See 5.9.4.30 E. below.) Any concerns regarding the use or care of animals by the institution should be addressed to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

5.94.30  Research Oversight and Risk Management [Proposition 22-08/09 Amending University Research Council Charter Passed by Faculty Senate 04.03.09; Amendment to Institutional Review Board procedures Adopted by Administrative Council 07.14.09; Ratified by Board of Regents 07.29.09]

E. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

1. Membership.

a. Voting members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee are appointed by the vice president for research upon recommendation from but not limited to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee chair and the director of compliance. Alternate members may be appointed by the vice president for research, each to substitute for an absent member. Alternates should receive the same training as members. If they attend a meeting with the primary member, they will not be counted toward a quorum or have voting rights.

b. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee chair is appointed by the vice president for research, and serves as the committee liaison to that office. The committee chair shall be a continuous appointment by the vice president for research, subject to annual confirmation. A vice chair shall be selected by the committee to conduct business in the absence of the chair, or in place of the chair if and when the chair has an application before the committee or other conflict of interest.

c. The term of membership on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is a twelve-month renewable period. It is not uncommon for members to serve at least two years. The committee chair and the director of compliance will make a recommendation for renewal of membership on the committee to the vice president for research.

d. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee shall include at least five members, at least one of whom is a community member that are not otherwise affiliated with the university. The committee must include a doctor of veterinary medicine with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine and program authority and responsibility for activities involving animals at the university, a practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals, a member whose
primary work concerns are nonscientific (examples include an ethicist, a lawyer, a member of the clergy), and a community representative who has no other affiliation with the university and has no immediate family affiliated with the university. No more than three members may come from the same college or administrative unit of the university.

e. The vice president for research or his/her designee, the director of the Office of Compliance, and the biosafety officer will be ex-officio non-voting members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

2. Functions and Responsibilities. All use of vertebrate animals must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to ensure the necessity of animal use and high standards of humane treatment. Animal research must be conducted by adequately trained persons using all necessary measures to prevent, minimize and alleviate pain and distress to an animal. Measures will be taken to ensure that no animals in the university’s care will experience severe or unrelieved pain and/or distress. All university employees involved in animal use for teaching or research purposes must be certified by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and must complete the occupational health and safety program for animal workers. Details of these requirements can be obtained from the institutional animal care and use committee chair or the director of compliance. The office of record for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee activities is the Office of Compliance within the Office of the Vice President for Research, which will comply with federal agency reporting requirements.