



Handbook Of Operating Procedures

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

A. Description

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is a technical, University-wide committee of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

B. Sanction

The President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College appoints this committee and receives its minutes.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

The IACUC is specifically charged with the responsibility to assure the humane care and use of animals used or intended for use in all research, research training, experimentation, teaching, or biological testing or for related purposes involving live vertebrate animals. The committee has oversight over the University's animal care and use program. The IACUC ensures compliance with federal regulations and Public Health Service policies defined by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of the National Institutes of Health, using the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. The committee will assure proper housing and treatment of all animals and review and respond to any questions or complaints from any source concerning the welfare of University animal subjects and take appropriate actions, including any necessary recommendations to the University administration. The committee may approve or suspend activities involving the care and use of animals. The committee reports to and makes recommendations to a senior administrator with authority to commit institutional resources who serves as the IACUC Institutional Official. The IACUC Official is not a member of the committee.

D. Membership

The President of the University shall appoint a committee of at least five members consisting of at least two faculty members, a community member, and an administrative representative based upon the recommendation of the Provost.

The committee must include a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine, a practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals, one member not a scientist, and one member not affiliated with the University. One person may fill more than one of these roles. An administrative representative or faculty member shall serve as chair of the committee.



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The faculty members shall serve two-year terms. Non-faculty members shall serve one year terms. Members may be reappointed as deemed appropriate by the President subsequent to recommendation by the Provost. Committee members shall be selected based on their experience and expertise to oversee the University's animal program, facilities, and procedures. The committee may, at its discretion, invite individuals with competence in special areas to assist in the review of research proposals. These individuals shall have no voting rights.

E. Meetings

The Committee shall meet no less than twice a year and when necessary to review an application or an activity with due regard for a thorough but speedy assessment of the program and facilities.

F. Review

This policy will be reviewed after each legislative session (every odd numbered year), no later than December 31 by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.