Policy on Vivarium Space Assignment

Date approved: October 25, 2016

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the UC Santa Cruz (UCSC) Biomed facility meets the needs of the researchers.

Policy

The purpose of this committee is to assign research space within the Biomed vivarium.

Composition

a) UCSC veterinarian
b) Faculty members whose research represents the types of animal investigation carried out in the facility.

Authority

The UCSC veterinarian and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) have the ultimate authority over animal use in all UCSC animal facilities, including the authority to euthanize animals, and stop animal use or any research protocols if it considers that necessary to alleviate stress or pain is being experienced by any animal.

The dean of Physical and Biological Sciences has the final authority for space assignment. The authority of the vivarium space assignment committee will, therefore, vary depending on the nature of the problem being addressed.

The Dean has approved the following guidelines to be utilized in assigning space:

Vivarium Space Assignment Guidelines

All reasonable efforts will be made to meet the space needs of investigators without jeopardizing accreditation standards or the health and well-being of animals.

Users who have compatible species and compatible protocols may be required to share rooms.

Three principles apply to the priority guidelines below:

• All room assignments are temporary.
• Sponsored research has highest priority.
• Some space must be available for unsponsored research.

Priority (highest to lowest)

• Sponsored Research: Peer reviewed competitive research from major federal agencies, e.g., NIH, USDA, FDA, CDC, DOD, and other grants and contracts.
• Unsponsored Interdisciplinary projects with anticipated outcomes of publications and/or grant applications.
• Un-sponsored individual investigators with anticipated outcomes of publications and/or grant applications
• Graduate student research

Space Allocation Decision-Making Procedures
If there is available space, the Attending Veterinarian will make space assignments in coordination with the Biomed vivarium space assignment committee.

If there are difficult decisions, the PBSci dean will make the final assignments.

New PIs or PIs with expanded space needs should also try to capitalize on the strong collegiality among PIs conducting research and work out sharing space.

UCSC Space Use Application Procedures
Optimum space allocation requires anticipating future space needs.

No commitment of vivarium space in grant applications or contracts or during faculty searches may be made without review by the attending veterinarian.

Department chairs and unit directors searching for new faculty and PIs applying for grants and contracts should consult the Attending Veterinarian as early as possible on future space needs.