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Official: UNL ready to comply with animal-research regulations

By Cindy Kimbrough
Staff Reporter

While some universities are scrambling to comply with new rules governing animal research, UNL stands ready for the Aug. 14 deadline, the director of the Institutional Animal Care Program said.

Gene White said that when Congress passed the 1985 Animal Welfare Act, which suggested some changes in cage sizes and other facilities in which animals are kept, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln made adjustments.

The new requirements were planned during construction of the animal science building at UNL in the mid-1980s, White said.

UNL's planning puts it ahead of several universities that have had to write up new animal-care plans and will have to spend on new "hardware" and on more help to exercise research animals, according to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The changes came after the issuance of new regulations in February by the Department of Agriculture.

“This is really not anything new that we didn't know before. It was something we knew was coming and prepared for ahead of time.”

White
director of the Institutional Animal Care Program

The regulations made the changes suggested in the 1985 act official.

“This is really not anything new that we didn't know before,” White said. “It was something we knew was coming and prepared for ahead of time.”

The 1985 changes took a while to come into effect because it took a couple of years to write the regulations, he said.

White said agricultural animal research at UNL is in compliance with all National Institute of Health and USDA guidelines. Compliance is ensured by NIH and USDA inspec-

tions once every year, he said. The Institute of Animal Care and Use also inspects the facilities twice a year, White said.

Although UNL's animal research labs are up to standards, there are always improvements needed as time goes on, he said.

“We don't have near enough facilities so we have asked for more money for a joint-use animal facility.”

Requirements other than those for facilities also were tightened. New nationwide requirements stipulate that institutions have written plans for the exercise of dogs and the psychological well-being of non-human primates.

White said the requirements don't really apply to UNL's agriculture research, because UNL does not use non-human primates in research and only four to five dogs, which are not kept longer than overnight, are used in a physiology teaching class.

For its research, UNL uses cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, mice, rats and guinea pigs and has used some goats and exotic animals, he said.

Minority researchers encouraged

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

Minority graduate students should realize they will have special pressures placed on them and shouldn't give up when submitting research materials to publications, panelists at a symposium Wednesday said.

Miguel Carranza, an associate professor of sociology and ethnic studies, told the 25 people attending the 1991 Minority Graduate Research Symposium that minority graduate students have unique pressures facing them while researching because of their backgrounds.

The key to successful researching, he said, is for students to carefully analyze their own research skills.

“As graduate students, I think we need to reflect on our interests, on our values and our goals,” Carranza said.

But if minority graduate students want to research minority issues, he said, they should expect people to ask, “What kind of real research do you do?”

Where they want to get published and what kind of impact the research will have are the next things minority students should consider when researching, he said.

If a person gets published only in minority publications, Carranza said, he or she risks being accused of not producing material publishable by a so-called respected journal.

During the question-and-answer period, audience members asked how to deal with such criticism.

Panel member Keith Parker, an assistant professor of sociology, responded that if students spend too much time trying to dispel the myths, they're spending too little time on research.

Although time is a precious commodity, once students submit material for publication, they shouldn't expect to be published immediately, the panelists said.

“My first publication came about as a result of at least four resubmissions,” Parker said. “It's not an easy task.”

Rejection isn't necessarily a bad thing, he said.

“Don't give up because your work is rejected. . . . It will humble you and make you a stronger person over the long haul,” he said.

Panel member Elizabeth Kean, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, said a few steps should be followed once material is rejected.

“You accommodate as much as you can. You revise it. And then you fire that sucker back.”

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Broyhill Chamber Ensemble
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Dec. 6, 1991 8 p.m., Kimball Hall
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