

Statement for Faculty Senate
November, 1991 Agenda

At the October, 1991 meeting of the Faculty Senate, the harassment by animal rights extremists of a faculty member in the School of Medicine, Dr. Matthew Wolf, was brought to your attention. The Chair referred this matter for evaluation by Faculty Advisory Committee. My understanding is that the Faculty Advisory Committee is prepared to report that the research activities of Dr. Wolf have been evaluated, authorized, and monitored by the USC Institutional Animal Care and Utilization Committee; both Dr. Wolf and his research activities are in full compliance with all existing University, State, and Federal laws, regulations, and accepted standards of practice.

I would like to enter into the record the following resolution of support for Dr. Matthew Wolf by the Basic Science Faculty of the School of Medicine:

The Basic Science Faculty of the School of Medicine met on October 21, 1991 and discussed the attention on Dr. Wolf and his research program by so-called "animal rights" groups.

The Faculty consider the targeting of one Professor by so-called "animal rights" groups with letter-writing campaigns, phone calls, and misleading reports to the media to constitute harassment.

The Faculty are aware of Dr. Wolf's research activities, his character, decency, and personal integrity, the peer evaluation of his grant proposals and research reports, and the authorization and monitoring of his research protocols using animals by the USC Institutional Animal Care and Utilization Committee (IACUC).

The Faculty voted unanimously for this resolution of support on behalf of Dr. Wolf and his research activities attesting to his strict adherence to all animal use policies and established practices.

Furthermore, permit me to inform the Senate of two existing University Policies pertinent to this matter. First is the University Policies and Procedures number ACAF 5.03 which deals with 'Care and Use of Laboratory Animals'. The

policy describes a rationale for the current and continuing use of laboratory animals, ethical and legal obligations associated with that use, and a university procedure mandated by the Public Health Service for regulation that complies with the Animal Welfare Act and other applicable laws and regulations. It should be noted that all major research universities in the United States conduct research using animals and have a similar policy governing that activity.

Second is the University Policies and Procedures number SPAR 1.00 which deals with 'Misconduct in Research and Scholarship'; this policy describes fair and orderly procedures mandated by the Public Health Service and National Science Foundation for dealing with all issues of this nature including failure to ensure the welfare of laboratory animals. Since a charge of misconduct, even if unjustified, may seriously damage the integrity of an individual or the institution, the USC policy directs that issues should be handled in a limited and confidential way, pursued first through the relevant departments or schools, or through the Provost's Office: "Premature disclosure of information concerning an allegation may itself constitute misconduct". Since I believe that it is non-collegial and inappropriate for any member of the University community to disclose charges to the media before or during their evaluation by the established procedures within the University community, I have asked the Provost's Office to determine whether this misconduct policy has been violated.

Finally, the Senate should be pleased to learn that a University Task Force has been formed to coordinate University preparedness and response to animal use issues, whether this involves providing institutional support for harassed research staff or providing confidential, prompt, and expeditious evaluation of allegations of misconduct. The members of this task force include: Dr. Beattie, veterinarian and Director of University Animal resource Facility, Artis Savory of Sponsored Programs and Research, Pete Mackey of the President's Office, Debra Allen of Media Relations, Terry Parham, Chief Legal Counsel, Roger Sawyer, Chair of Biology, Ernie Ellis of Law Enforcement and Safety, and Stan Fowler, Associate Dean for Research in the School of Medicine. Inquiries for the Task Force may be directed for coordination to Debra Allen, 777-1234.

James Buggy, School of Medicine