

Commission approves protocol Student group opposes use of macaques

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

And the macaque monkey controversy rages on.

The recent decision of the Institutional Animal Care and Use commission to approve the protocol of Dr. Richard Marrocco, which involves the use of macaque monkeys, has left some people crying foul.

Under federal law the IACUC must review and approve all animal research that is scheduled to take place at the University.

According to the protocol, the monkeys will be used in neurological research dealing with the brain's systems for selecting and concentrating upon information.

The controversy originates from the use of the monkeys for research purposes and whether the IACUC violated Oregon's public meetings law when approving the protocol.

"The IACUC was not open

Freidberg also raised the question of whether Marrocco is qualified enough to work with the monkeys, as well as

feel he is medically qualified to work with these monkeys until he receives better training," Freidberg said.

'As a colleague, I feel Dr. Marrocco is wonderfully qualified. He's an expert. The propaganda from SETA is just that.'

— Charles Kimmel

whether the IACUC took the animals rights question seriously enough.

Marrocco was accused of negligence that contributed to the death of two monkeys under his control. The charges were made during criminal proceedings stemming from the 1986 break-in of University animal facilities.

Marrocco could not be reached for comment.

"I am disappointed with the decision, because in light of Dr. Marrocco's past work I don't

"I feel the IACUC is not taking this issue seriously enough and not taking into consideration the feelings of the Eugene public and students," she said.

Kimmel disagreed.

"As a colleague, I feel Dr. Marrocco is wonderfully qualified," he said. "He's an expert. The propaganda from SETA is just that."

Kimmel said he feels the IACUC worked hard and seriously on evaluating the proposal.

Freidberg said she was hesitant to discuss possible legal action against the IACUC by SETA, but did say they would probably plan to have some rallies and organized protests.

"We will not let the issue drop," she said. "It is the belief of SETA that justifying the use of these monkeys is no less of an exploitation than a human."

'I am disappointed with the decision, because in light of Dr. Marrocco's past work I don't feel he is medically qualified to work with these monkeys until he receives better training.'

— Jill Freidberg

enough," said Jill Freidberg of Student for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "They wouldn't allow anyone from SETA to review the protocol before they met."

The IACUC met over spring break to approve the protocol. At the meeting the IACUC went into an executive session, and Freidberg questioned the legality of this action.

"They went into an executive session at a time when we are not sure they were able to," she said. "They let us see the protocol after it was approved but it's too late."

Charles Kimmel, IACUC chairman, defended the executive session by saying the committee met in private only because it had to discuss secret issues of the protocol that were not for public knowledge.

"We voted in public," Kimmel said. "We go into executive sessions to go over things that are secret. We consider what we can, such as general care of the animals, in public."

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