BACKGROUND & SCOPE: PHS policy requires that minority views related to the content of the annual report, any serious or continuing noncompliance with PHS policy, serious deviations from the provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or any suspension of an activity by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) be reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) at the NIH. The Animal Welfare Act Regulations require that semi-annual evaluations of the program and facilities include any minority views. This policy applies to minority views filed by IACUC members related to these issues. This policy does not apply to dissenting votes related to IACUC reviews of individual protocols.

POLICY & PROCEDURES: Any minority view subject to this policy (which does not include dissenting votes of IACUC protocol reviews) will be presented at a convened IACUC meeting for discussion and comment. If the written copy of such a minority view contains factually incorrect information, the member issuing the view will be invited to provide correction. If the member declines the opportunity to submit correction, the Institutional Official or his/her designate may elect to append a cover memo to the written minority view explaining the inaccuracy. Such minority views will be incorporated into the next semi-annual report that is forwarded to the Institutional Official and in the next annual report that is forwarded to OLAW. If such minority views relate to an IACUC action or incident that is required to be reported promptly (PHS Policy IV.F.3), they shall be appended to the final report regarding the action/incident that is submitted by the Institutional Official to OLAW.

AUTHORITY:

Health Research Extension Act PL 99-158

Sec. 495 requires that reports filed under subparagraph (C) [semi-annual review requirements] shall include any minority views filed by members of the committee.

PHS Policy:

Section IV.E.1.d

Requires institutions to maintain copies of minority views of semiannual reports.

Section IV.F.4

Reports filed under IV.F. of this Policy shall include any minority views filed by members of the IACUC.

AWA:
2.31(c)(3) requires that the IACUC conduct a semi-annual evaluation of the program and facilities and report on that evaluation to the IO. Those reports should include any minority views.

2.35 (a)(3) requires that the research facility maintain records of semiannual IACUC reports and recommendations (including minority views), prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 2.31(c)(3) of this subpart, and forwarded to the Institutional Official.

**Definitions**

IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Minority View - The opinion of one or more IACUC member(s) which differs from the majority opinion of the IACUC as related to the content of the annual report, any serious or continuing noncompliance with PHS Policy, serious deviations from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, or any suspension of an activity by the IACUC.

OLAW – Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare