

Minutes

IRB Meeting

February 26th, 2026; 3:30 – 5:00 pm

- Present: Jo Morrison, Eric Laws, Karen Kinslow, Becca Brusseau, Alison King, Tom PlaHovinsak, Ryan Stouffer, Guest: Jen Gerlach

- Approval of the minutes from the January 29th meeting
 - Minutes approved

- Report on IRB Activity: Protocols Assigned to the February Meeting
 - Exempt 3
 - Not HSR 1
 - Renewals 2
 - Final Reports 3
 - Number of active protocols 57

- Review of Protocol 25-09-269
 - The committee reviewed the submitted protocol. During the discussion, the committee identified several ethical considerations related to the proposed research design.
 - *Deception and Transparency*: Members discussed the proposed use of deception in the experimental portion of the study. The committee considered whether the use of deception was necessary to achieve the scientific aims and whether the proposed procedures provided adequate transparency and justification consistent with ethical standards for human subjects research.
 - *Participant Population and Risk*: The committee discussed the inclusion of individuals who may have experienced trauma and the potential sensitivity of the research topic. Members emphasized the importance of minimizing potential psychological risk and ensuring that study procedures are appropriate for participants who may have experienced trauma.
 - *Informed Consent and Recruitment*: The committee discussed the clarity of the recruitment materials and consent process. Members noted the importance of ensuring that participants are provided with sufficient information to make an informed decision about participation while maintaining any justified methodological requirements.
 - *Research Personnel and Training*: The committee discussed the proposed involvement of a student researcher in participant-facing activities. Members emphasized the importance of appropriate training and oversight when conducting research with potentially vulnerable populations.
 - *Study Design Considerations*: Members also discussed whether alternative methodological approaches might allow the research questions to be addressed while reducing potential risks to participants.
 - *Committee Action*: After discussion, the committee determined that the protocol requires substantial revisions before a final determination can be made. The IRB agreed to provide the investigator with a written summary of concerns and requested revisions addressing:
 - justification and use of deception
 - recruitment and consent procedures
 - protections for participants who may have experienced trauma
 - qualifications and training of research personnel
 - clarification of study procedures and risk mitigation

- The committee agreed to table the protocol pending revisions. The investigator will have the option to submit revisions for further review or withdraw the protocol and submit a new application.

- Time allowing: Review of Standards for Faculty Mentors of Student Research
 - Tabled for the April 2nd meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 2nd 3:30 – 5:00 pm on Zoom