

Minutes

IRB Meeting

April 2nd, 2026; 3:30 – 5:00 pm

- Present: Jo Morrison, Karen Kinslow, Alison King, Tom PlaHovinsak, Ryan Stouffer, Larry Collins, Gregg Harbaugh-Schattenkirk, Guest: Jessica Bourdon
- Approval of the minutes from the February 26th meeting
 - Minutes approved
- Report on IRB Activity: Protocols Assigned to the April Meeting
 - Exempt 40
 - Not HSR 0
 - Number of active protocols 95
- Review of Standards & Procedures for Use of Audio, Video, and Photography in Research
 - The IRB reviewed and discussed the draft Standards and Procedures related to the use of audio, video, and photographic recordings in research. Discussion focused on consent, identifiability, and participants' reasonable expectations of privacy.
 - The Board affirmed that while recording in public spaces may be permissible, researchers must carefully consider whether individuals are identifiable and whether recording aligns with participants' expectations of privacy.
 - The Board supported language emphasizing that recordings should be transcribed and de-identified as soon as practicable, with retention of original recordings limited to cases where there is a clear research justification.
 - Specific considerations for research involving children were discussed. The Board confirmed that both parental permission and child assent are required, when appropriate based on age and capacity. The distinction between parental permission and child assent will be clarified in the document.
 - The Board also discussed the future use of identifiable images of minors. It was agreed that while data may be retained for research purposes, identifiable images used in publications or presentations require re-consent once the participant reaches the age of majority, unless specific and justified exceptions apply (e.g., longitudinal physical development research).
 - The updated draft will be shared with faculty for comment prior to final approval.
- Review of Standards for Faculty Mentors of Student Research
 - The IRB reviewed the draft document outlining expectations for faculty mentors of student research involving human subjects.
 - Discussion centered on the role and responsibility of faculty mentors, particularly in relation to student-led projects. The Board reaffirmed that while students may take primary ownership of their projects, faculty mentors retain ultimate responsibility for the ethical design, conduct, and oversight of the research, especially in studies involving greater than minimal risk.
 - The Board also discussed whether the document should be framed as formal Standards and Procedures or as guidance. Concerns were raised that positioning the document as enforceable standards could create confusion regarding the IRB's role and authority, particularly in areas related to faculty training and mentorship.
 - The Board recognized that while formal training mechanisms (e.g., CITI training) are in place, variability remains in faculty experience with human subjects research and in the transition to independent research oversight. However, the IRB's role is to ensure compliance and protection of human subjects, rather than to serve as a primary training body for faculty mentorship.
 - Based on this discussion, the Board agreed to reframe the document as Best Practices for Faculty Mentors of Student Research Involving Human Subjects. This approach allows the IRB to provide clear guidance and expectations while avoiding the implication of enforceable policy in areas beyond its scope.

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