

Minutes

IRB Meeting

January 29th, 2026; 3:30 – 5:00 pm

- Present: Jo Morrison, Eric Laws, Karen Kinslow, Alison King, Tom PlaHovinsak, Ryan Stouffer, Gregg Harbaugh-Schattenkirk, Julia Maserjian
- Approval of the minutes from the December 4th 2025 meeting
 - Minutes approved
- Report on IRB Activity: Protocols Assigned to the January Meeting
 - Exempt 21
 - Renewals 3
 - Final Reports 4
 - Number of active protocols 63
- Review of Standards for Faculty Mentors of Student Research
 - The committee reviewed feedback on the draft *Standards for Faculty Mentors of Student Research*, including concerns raised by faculty regarding the scope and tone of the document and aspects of the IRB review process more broadly.
 - Concerns were expressed that portions of the draft standards were unclear or overly prescriptive, particularly language related to vulnerable populations, documentation of faculty experience, and proportional oversight. Some faculty perceived elements of IRB review, including questions about study design and demographic data collection, as extending beyond ethical review or creating barriers to research activity. Committee members discussed the importance of clearly communicating the ethical rationale for reviewing study design elements when they relate to participant risk, privacy, confidentiality, or identifiability, particularly in small or local participant populations.
 - The committee agreed that revisions were needed to improve clarity, reduce unintended interpretations, and better distinguish between minimal risk and greater than minimal risk research. Specific revisions discussed included softening language, removing or revising sections that could be read as categorical or restrictive, and adding links to institutional standards and external guidance to clarify concepts such as vulnerability.
 - The committee reaffirmed that faculty mentors retain responsibility for the ethical conduct and oversight of student-led research and that IRB review focuses on participant protections. It was noted that most student-led research is reviewed as exempt and that disapproval authority rests with the full IRB, not staff reviewers. Members also discussed the need for improved communication between researchers and the IRB to address concerns earlier in the submission process.
 - The committee agreed to continue revising the document.
- Standards and Procedures for Interview Based Research
 - The revisions to the draft Standards & Procedures for Interview Based Research were reviewed. The IRB agreed that the document was ready for faculty review and comment.
- Review Oral Consent scripts
 - The sample oral consent scripts were approved for posting on the IRB website.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 26th 3:30 – 5:00 pm on Zoom