Annual Report for the Institutional Review Board - FY20

This report describes the activities of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) beginning June 1, 2019 and ending May 31, 2020 (FY20).

As shown in Table 1, 95 new protocols were submitted to the IRB in FY20 (versus 80 in FY19 and 104 in FY18), and 4 protocols originally submitted in FY19 were submitted with revisions for approval in FY20. Of these 99 protocols, 3 protocols received full board review (3.03%), 33 protocols were classified as expedited (33.33%), and 55 were classified as exempt (55.56%). Eight protocols (8.08%), were reviewed and returned to the investigator with comments and suggested edits, but were later withdrawn.

Table 1. IRB Protocol Classification in FY20

Classification	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
Full Board	1	1	1	3
Expedited	5	16	12	33
Exempt	8	30	17	55
Withdrawn	4	0	4	8
Total	18	47	34	99

As shown in Table 2, IRB protocols were submitted by 21 departments, programs, and/or offices in FY20. Departments that submitted protocols most frequently included Psychology and Health and Human Physiological Sciences.

Table 2. IRB Protocols Submitted by Department / Program / Office in FY20

Department / Program / Office	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
Anthropology	0	1	0	1
Athletics, Fitness and Recreation	0	1	0	1
Chemistry	0	1	0	1
Computer Science (3 of 4 withdrawn)	2	0	2	4
Dance	1	2	0	3
Economics	0	2	4	6
Education Studies (1 of 2 withdrawn)	0	1	1	2
English (withdrawn)	0	0	1	1
Environmental Studies and Sciences	1	1	1	3
Gender Studies	1	1	0	2
Health and Human Phys. Sciences	0	8	4	12
Institutional Research	1	1	0	2
Management and Business	0	1	1	2
Office of the President	0	0	1	1
Opportunity Program (withdrawn)	1	0	0	1
Political Science	1	6	0	7
Psychology (1 of 44 withdrawn)	8	20	16	44
Religious Studies	0	0	1	1
Social Work (1 withdrawn)	2	0	1	3
Sociology	0	1	0	1

World Languages and Literatures	0	0	1	1
Total	18	47	34	99

As shown in Table 3, of the 99 protocols reviewed in FY20, 47 were submitted by student investigators with a faculty advisor, compared with 35 protocols submitted by student investigators in FY19.

Table 3. IRB Protocols Submitted by Student Investigator with Faculty Advisors in FY20

Department / Program / Office	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
Computer Science (withdrawn)	0	0	1	1
Dance	1	1	0	2
Economics	0	1	2	3
Education Studies (withdrawn)	0	0	1	1
English (withdrawn)	0	0	1	1
Environmental Studies & Sciences	0	1	0	1
Health and Human Phys. Sciences	0	6	3	9
Political Science	0	2	0	2
Psychology (1 withdrawn)	3	11	10	24
Social Work (1 withdrawn)	2	0	1	3
Total	6	22	19	47

As shown in Table 4, the IRB reviewed and approved 40 amendment requests to previously approved protocols in FY20, compared to 47 amendment requests in FY19.

Table 4. Number of Amendment Requests Approved in FY20

	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
IRB Amendment Requests	12	14	14	40

Continuing Review Forms were sent to investigators for 53 expedited and full-board protocols approved prior to January 21, 2019 (those approved after January 21, 2019 do not require continuing review). 30 protocols received approval in FY20 to remain active, while 23 protocols received approval to be closed.

No adverse events were reported to the IRB in FY20.

In March 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty and the IRB sent out a joint email to the faculty stating 1) the College has suspended any research involving on-campus human subjects research; 2) any new or pending Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications involving in-person testing on campus will not be reviewed or approved; 3) any currently active IRB protocols involving in-person testing on campus must cease until further notice; and 4) revising any currently active IRB protocols from in-person to remote/online research requires an amendment request and approval. The above was still in effect as of May 31, 2020.

Membership for the IRB is listed in Table 5. Andrew Demaree (Counseling Center) stepped down as a member of the IRB after generously providing six years of service (FY14-FY19).

Table 5. IRB Members

June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020
Lisa Burke, IRB Coordinator (Sponsored Research)
Sarah DiPasquale (Dance)
Denise Evert (Psychology)
Kurt Freeman (Community-at-Large Member)
Sandra Goff (Economics)
Mary Hoehn, Chair (Sponsored Research)
Andrew Lindner (Sociology)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hoehn, IRB Chair