

Committee Report of the Institutional Review Board AY: 2017-2018
Submitted to Fredi deYampert
April 30, 2018

IRB Membership:

Monique Bourdage (SCAS), chair

Rekha Ambardar (ISB)

Suzanne Miron (CHS)

Hilary Virtanen (SCAS)

Open position to be filled by an unaffiliated community member

Summary

The IRB committee did not meet all of the goals submitted at the beginning of the academic year. However, this was largely due to a shift in goals that needed to occur because of changing federal regulations impacting application and review procedures for human subjects research. Over the course of the academic year, the IRB had three meetings: two in-person and one over email. The IRB committee received, reviewed, and approved 8 research applications submitted by Finlandia University faculty, staff, and students. This is the highest number of research applications we have received in at least the past 7 years (the committee chair does not have access to records prior to 2011), and we should be proud of the increasing engagement in original human subjects research by our faculty, staff, and students.

The IRB committee also began the laborious undertaking of reviewing and revising all IRB forms, the handbook, and the website. Changes to federal regulations means that all forms and information available on our website pertaining to IRB procedures will need to be updated.

The biggest challenges facing the IRB this academic year included finding an outside 5th member of the committee and completing the numerous revisions that must be in place prior to the new federal regulations taking effect on July 19, 2018. Monique Bourdage and Hilary Virtanen have taken on the bulk of this revision work and will continue to work on changes in order to ensure that the forms and websites are updated by the time the new federal regulations take effect.

Accomplishments

- Reviewed and approved 8 research applications (see table at the end of this report for a summary of research projects approved)
- Edited confusing language on our IRB application to bring it in line with the federal regulations
- Made the IRB application a fillable PDF and added it to the website
- Created a team drive to store Finlandia IRB related forms, sample forms from other universities, information about upcoming changes to federal regulations, and new drafts of IRB forms
- Researched and identified sample forms from other universities that we can use as guides while updating our IRB forms

- Ensured that all IRB committee members had completed both IRB member training and IRB investigator training
- Updated committee membership on the website
- Reviewed the IRB manual (thank you, Hilary Virtanen) and other forms for necessary changes
- Held two in-person meetings to discuss possible 5th members and upcoming changes to federal regulations
- Solicited recommendations for possible 5th members from colleagues not currently on the committee

Unmet goals

- **Recruit a fifth IRB member.** *The outside member needed to be a man with no affiliation to Finlandia. These restrictions ruled out a number of the candidates we had originally brainstormed. On two occasions, Suzanne Miron offered to reach out to a potential fifth member, but this never came to fruition. Since we are losing two committee members (Suzanne and Rekha), we will need to wait until the fall to see what the current makeup of the committee is before we'll know the restrictions for finding a 5th member.*
- **Convert all existing IRB forms to fillable PDFs** *This has yet to be done because we are in the process of updating all existing IRB forms.*
- **Update contact information for committee in the manual and review manual for any other updates needed.** *This is delayed as we are in the process of making major substantive changes to the manual in order to comply with upcoming changes to federal regulations.*
- **Website updates** *These have been delayed until we have completed updating the existing forms and manuals.*

Summary of Protocols Received AY 2017-2018

ID	Submitted By:	Protocol Title	Status
1	Claudia Youakim and SOC 353 Research Methods, Finlandia University faculty and students	Attitudes on NFL Protests	exempt-approved
2	John J. Durocher (MTU), Brigitte Morin (MTU), and Bridget Durocher, Finlandia University staff	Media-Based Mindfulness to Improve Resiliency and Physiological Health in Student-Athletes	Cooperative research exempt from Finlandia's review due to prior approval by MTU's IRB-approved
3	Monique Bourdage, Finlandia University faculty	Girls Rock Camps, Feminist Pedagogy, and Overcoming the Gendered Barriers of Electric Guitar Performance	exempt-approved (by IRB member, Hilary Virtanen)
4	Claudia Youakim, Finlandia University faculty	An Exploratory Study of Exotic Dancers (Amendment to project originally approved during AY 2016-2017, which removed student Hailee Johnson as a co-investigator and added student Heather Saari as a co-investigator)	Approved based on terms of prior approval
5	Jennifer Pesola, Finlandia University student	Emotion(s) Evoked by Imagery	expedited-approved (by IRB member, Hilary Virtanen)
6	Seth Dahl, Finlandia University student	Conceptions of Color	exempt--approved
7	Travis Cornwell, Finlandia University student	Masculinity within Sports Talk Radio	exempt—approved (by IRB member, Suzanne Miron)
8	Gina Geliche, Finlandia University student	Idioms Survey	exempt--approved