



CSS Research Committee Minutes

September 13, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Fujita Masako (ANP), Susan Zhu (EC), Jiquan Chen (GEO), Ahnalee Brincks (HDFS), Jason Moser (PSY/Chair), Zeenat Kotval-K (SPDC), Mevan Jayasinghe (HRLR), Emine Evered (HST), Stephen Gasteyer (Sociology), Cristina Bodea (PLS), Angie Kennedy (SSW) Anna Maria Santiago (CSS Dean's Office), Barbara Cernadas (CSS Dean's Office)

Absent Jeremy Wilson (CJ)

Minutes taken by Anna Maria Santiago (CSS Dean's Office)

1. Approval of the agenda

- Jiquan Chen motioned to approve the minutes; Susan Zhu seconded. Passed unanimously by 2022-23 committee members.

2. Approval of the May minutes – already approved via email in May 2023

3. Selection of Research Committee Chair

- After a brief discussion, Jason Moser (PSY) was selected to continue as Committee Chair

4. Updated proposal submission deadline policy and online proposal processing form

- Updated the proposal submission deadline policy in July 2023. Information shared with the research community. Two important updates: (1) routing budget for review and approval 8 business days before sponsor deadline; and (2) route the entire proposal document 6 business days before sponsor deadline.
- Need to follow College submission policies.
- Implemented a new Qualtrics based proposal processing form. Captures information needed to create the proposal document.
- Either the Research Administrator or PI needs to submit the proposal processing form 4-6 weeks prior to sponsor deadline.
- Add a submission portal hot link directly to the form.
- Assigned research administrator based upon the complexity of the proposal.
- Easier to know about potential proposals earlier than later.
- Need to allow for enough time to develop, review and approve proposal budgets.
- ORSI Research Administrators will draft the budget and send it back to the PI for review and approval. Final budgets are sent to OSP for their review and approval.

5. IRB issues

- SSW – Kennedy noted that she has had many issues with IRB over the years. Others as well – significant delays, taking a more conservative stance than regulations allow. Another key issue about sensitive topics – receives greater oversight than federal regulations consider necessary. Are there ways to improve the process. For some researchers, IRB is a barrier instead of a facilitator.
- GEO – feeling that IRB has not been working well. Extremely slow, often not clear with multiple universities who should submit the documents. Need to have protocols that will move the process fast and smoothly. People are very frustrated with IRB.
- HST -- Also concerns with fieldwork – graduate students. Perhaps we can make some recommendations to IRB. Could look at other institutions and their processes.
- PLS – Bodea also notes that these are issues in her department.
- HRPP seems to be risk adverse. Most MSU protocols are considered exempt and are reviewed by staff. Exempt survey from several years back created a furor and led HRPP to be more cautious. CSS is proposing to help hire someone who is specialized in social science to help facilitate the HRPP review process. HRPP staff is not looking at the science. Also pushing this issue through CORD.
- Structure of the MSU IRB may be a bit unorthodox. Harry McGee is still the Chair of SIRB at MSU. Seems to be a lack of understanding of the research. Interface is not user friendly. Communication is problematic.
- Contact Anna Maria Santiago if faculty are encountering difficulties. Use ORSI as a resource to facilitate your work.
- ANP – took about 3 months for HRPP approval for a small study. More than half of the time via CLICK with a staff member. Left voicemails several times or via CLICK and did not receive a response.
- SOC – submitting a proposal and needed to know if I had to submit an IRB for a research project – is it necessary? Could not get through to IRB to get an answer. Feel like they are backlogged. That is really a problem if you are under a proposal deadline. Lack of efficiency by IRB going remote. When I do get to talk to someone, they are very helpful.
- We can ask if someone from HRPP can come to talk with the CSS Research Committee.

6. Research priorities for 2023-24 academic year – tabled until October meeting.

7. Matters arising - None

Meeting was adjourned at 09:35 am.