



Research Committee Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY – May 8, 2024, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Masako Fujita (ANP), Susan Zhu (EC), Jiquan Chen (GEO), Michelle Moyd (HST), Cristina Bodea (PLS), Jason Moser (PSY/Chair), Sheila Maxwell (SCJ), Xuefei Ren (SOC), Angie Kennedy (SSW), Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani (URP), Barbara Cernadas (CSS Dean's Office), Anna Maria Santiago (CSS Dean's Office).

Absent: Desiree Qin (HDFS), Mevan Jayasinghe (HRLR), Nidhi Kalani (Graduate Student Rep), Avery Underwood (Undergraduate Student Rep)

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

- 1. Approval of the agenda.** Motion by Zeenat Kotval-K. Seconded by Jiquan Chen.
- 2. February minutes – sent via email.** Motion to approve by Sheila Maxwell. Seconded by Jiquan Chen.
- 3. Confidentiality of review panel deliberations.**
Committee members were reminded that deliberations of all review panels – whether for College grant competitions or faculty awards – need to remain confidential. All applicants receive disposition letters and invitations to receive anonymized feedback. Refer individuals back to Santiago if they have questions about the process or dispositions for any awards.

Chen indicated that department chairs will announce who sits on the committees. Santiago indicated that knowing who is on a committee is fine but we retain the confidentiality of those who serve as reviewers for any given RFP or award issued by this committee. Santiago provides applicants with general summaries of reviewer comments upon request. We also tend to exclude as much as possible committee members from serving on review panels where applicants are from the same unit – avoid conflicts of interest.

Santiago thanked the committee for how thoughtful members have been with their reviews.

- 4. HRPP and IRB review process.**
Santiago provided update. CSS has 5 representatives on the SIRB Committee – heavy with Psychology representatives. Proposed idea to cost-share a position in HRPP with expertise in social science. HRPP did not accept the offer in that way citing a potential conflict of interest. However, they proposed an alternative of whether CSS would imbed someone in the College to vet submissions when uploaded into the CLICK system. We would hire someone within the College for this after putting out a call. The College would then do an internal review first catching things that are commonly missing from the protocol submissions in CLICK. Missing items are a primary reason for delays in HRPP dispositions. This would then fast track protocols in the system and with HRPP. The ultimate goal is to eliminate roadblocks for timely review and approval.

Would embedding a person fast track or delay the reviews? Part of the frustration is that it has been taking too long. My understanding is that it would give us an edge with HRPP. Often times we see delays with student submissions that are incomplete; sometimes see that with faculty submissions. Will HRPP really honor that fast track.

It will depend on whether the reviewers have real power or not in decision making or advocating with staff/SIRB. HRPP staff have discomfort but not really issues. Doesn't seem like the scientists have more say on the SIRB.

I think that the College can take some ownership on this. Like to pilot this and see. The College will also offer a session and strategies on navigating the IRB. Process will be included in the CLICK system.

End goal is to facilitate the work of our researchers.

5. Research priorities for coming year.

- Useful to have significant lead time for RFP submissions. Announce these at the start of the academic year.
- Thematic RFPs make sense; have more than one theme.
- Is using an LOI or pre-proposal then full proposal a process that might work?
- Extra lead time for special calls.
- Changing Faculty Research Awards schedule.
- Second round RFP on peacemaking and peacebuilding
- Second round RFP on generative AI
- Newsletter is quite useful. May be doing some webscraping of opportunities.
- Multi-pronged approach to dissemination of information, opportunities.

6. Matters arising

2024-25 committee listing will be available later during the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.



College of Social Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY