

IRB Advisory Committee for Social and Behavioral Research
Report for Faculty Assembly. September 2015

1. *Initial Establishment of Committee.* The Committee was established in June 2004 in response to faculty concerns expressed at Faculty Assembly about lack of input into IRB policies and procedures, especially for researchers in social and behavioral science research areas and for those doing research classified as “Exempt.” Members were appointed by Randy Juhl to the committee. Irene Frieze, the Senate liaison, was elected chair and has served in this role since then.
2. Since 2004, the committee as served as a *liaison between faculty and the IRB Office to help in identifying and solving faculty concerns.* In the early years, we were quite active in doing this. Over time, the IRB became more and more able to respond directly to faculty concerns, under the IRB Office Director, Chris Ryan. The Committee met less often as fewer problems arose. When Chris left his position last summer, faculty have not had a clear understanding about what was happening with the IRB Office, although the Office appears to have been functioning well.
3. The Provost and George Huber, who now has oversight over the IRB Office, have responded to our questions by asking us to re-establish our IRB Advisory Committee for Social and Behavioral Research. I will again be chairing this committee. The following members have agreed to serve: Kathy Blee [Arts & Sciences], Mary Amanda Dew [Psychiatry and Public Health], Sara Goodkind [Social Work], John Levine [Psychogy], Anna Marsland [Psychology], and Lindsay Matsumura [Education]. Jeannie Barone, Sue Beers and Melissa Miklos, from the IRB Office will staff the Committee.
4. Melissa Miklos, the IRB Associate Director of Education, is now available to faculty to make suggestions, voice concerns, and ask any IRB related questions. The IRB will be holding a Meet and Greet Reception soon, although the data is not yet set. Representatives from the IRB will be available to answer questions or discuss needs. The IRB’s outreach initiatives will also include meetings with departments or specific investigators to discuss individual protocols or to deliver programs tailored to the Department’s needs. Contact Melissa at 412-383-1145 or miklosm@upmc.edu.

Please let us know if you have concerns with the IRB Office or the Research Review system. We welcome additional members to our Advisory Committee. Contact Irene Frieze at frieze@pitt.edu