

MEMO

ATTENTION : Ms. Alison Watt, Director, University Secretariat

FROM : Felix Breden, Chair, Research Ethics Board

RE : Annual REB Senate Report 2006/2007

DATE: October 10, 2007

Dear Ms. Watt:

In accordance with Policy R20.01, "Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Subjects", Section 3.6, I am submitting, on behalf of the Research Ethics Board, the Annual Report to Senate. The report spans the time frame September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007.

Sincerely,



Felix Breden

Enclosure

/bjr



Annual Report to Senate
September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007

Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The REB (Research Ethics Board) Web site is located at:

<http://www.sfu.ca/vp-research/ethics/index.htm>

1. Current Members

Term Ends

Elected by/from Faculty

Ted Kirkpatrick	Applied Sciences	May 31, 2010
Joseph Taylor	Arts and Social Sciences	May 31, 2010
Simon Verdun-Jones	Arts and Social Sciences	May 31, 2010
Jerry Sheppard	Business	May 31, 2009
Margaret MacDonald	Education	May 31, 2009
Robert Young	Science	May 31, 2010
Julian Somers	Health Sciences	May 31, 2009

Elected by Senate from the University Community

Bev Neufeld	Dean of Arts/Soc. Sciences	May 31, 2009
Maureen Hoskyn (Vice-Chair)	Faculty of Education	May 31, 2008
Felix Breden (Chair)	Biological Sciences	May 31, 2008

Student Member Elected by Senate

Alex Hemingway		May 31, 2008
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Elected by Senate from Community Outside the University

Margit Nance		May 31, 2009
Laurence Turner		May 31, 2008

Office of Research Ethics

Hal Weinberg, Director, Ex-officio (non-voting)
Barb Ralph, Ethics Officer
Janet Yule, Ethics Assistant
Catherine Young, Office Assistant

2. Minimal Risk Applications Approved by the REB September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007

Faculty - 170
Graduate Students - 287
Undergraduate Students - 43
Post Doctoral - 9
Staff - 15
Other - 32 (adjuncts, research associates, lecturers)

3. Non-Minimal Risk Applications Approved by the REB September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007

graduate students - 2

4. Courses Approved by the REB under Policy R20.01

The REB approved 27 course applications from September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007

There has been a 70% increase in ethics application approvals from the previous year (2005/2006).

5. Activities

The REB has established two sub-committees. 1) Secondary sub-committee to develop an internal policy for the consideration of applications that use secondary data, and 2) Forms sub-committee revise the ethics application forms.

The Conflict of Interest Policy was approved on May 31, 2007, GP 37. Where the research involves the use of human participants, the Research Ethics Board will review the real or potential conflict of interest and determine whether a conflict of interest exists and if so, whether it may be managed or disallowed.

An upgraded database for the on-line ethics forms and related information was implemented.

All applications are now being reviewed by the Board in PDF format on a disk distributed with the meeting agendas. This allows for the consideration of applications without printing hard copies.

6. Internal Policies Adopted by the REB

- i) The Principal Investigator is authorized to assign assistants, by notification to the Office of Research Ethics, for the purpose of requesting amendments to minimal risk projects.
- ii) All researchers must include in their confidentiality statements, and in the information documents, that confidentiality of information collected by email cannot be assured.
- iii) The reasons why an application has been categorized as non-minimal risk will be recorded in the Minutes of the REB, and these will be communicated to the researcher.
- iv) Two versions (Option "A" and "B") of the consent forms were approved. The Forms Sub-committee is considering the revision of these two options with the expectation that a third option will be implemented allowing for the researcher to construct his/her own consent protocol that conforms to general principles of the Tri-Council, SFU Policy R20.01 and internal policies of the REB.
- v) The Principal Investigator must confirm that the equipment used in the protocol has been certified by Canadian Standards Association or other acceptable national or international agency and meets medical devices regulations. If the equipment has not been certified, or the researcher is uncertain, the Principal Investigator must contact the Environmental Health and Safety Office at SFU for guidance or approval process required.