

MEMO

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| ATTENTION : Senate c/o Kate Ross, Registrar and Secretary to Senate | TEL |
| FROM Simon Verdun-Jones, Chair, Resarch Ethics Board | |
| RE Annual REB Senate Report 2011-2012 | |
| | |
| DATE February 20, 2013 | TIME |

Dear Kate Ross:

In accordance with Policy R20.01, "Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Subjects", Section 14.7, I am submitting, on behalf of the Research Ethics Board, the Annual Report to Senate. The report spans the time frame September 1, 2011 to January 31, 2013.

Sincerely,

Simon N. Verdun-Jones, J.S.D.
Professor, Criminology
Chair, Research Ethics Board

Enclosure

/bjz

Annual Report to Senate

September 1, 2011– January 31, 2013

Over the past year and a half, the SFU REB has refined its policies and procedures in order to clarify its standard requirements for research submissions, kept abreast of national and provincial changes in guidelines and legislation that impact research ethics, provided ongoing education and continued to be responsive to the inquiries of our research community.

The SFU REB requested an external review of the Research Ethics Board and the Office of Research Ethics. With the results of this external review and the changes made to the Tri-Council Policy Statement: *Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (2010), SFU's Policy R20.01 was revised. The SFU REB was actively involved in the revisions to R20.01 and had requested that the position of Associate Director, ORE, be created. The REB's request was accepted and the appointment of Dina Shafey, PhD, MBA to Associate Director, ORE, was made. The current membership of the REB and current ORE staff can be found below. The Chair, Dr. Verdun-Jones, was re-elected until May 31, 2013 and Dr. Gary McCarron elected as Deputy Chair until May 2013.

Current Members

| Elected by/from Faculty | Faculty | Term Ends |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Simon Verdun-Jones (Chair) | Arts and Social Sciences | May 31, 2013 |
| Gary McCarron (Deputy Chair) | Communication, Art and Technology | May 31, 2013 |
| Rodney Vaughan | Applied Sciences | May 31, 2013 |
| Cindy Patton | Arts and Social Sciences | May 31, 2013 |
| Kim Trottier | Business Administration | May 31, 2015 |
| Maureen Hoskyn | Education | May 31, 2015 |
| Denise Zabkiewicz | Health Sciences | May 31, 2015 |
| Robert Young | Science | May 31, 2013 |
| Vacant | Environment | May 31, 2013 |

| Elected by Senate from University Community | Department | Term Ends |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Ehsan Jozzghi | Criminology | May 31, 2013 |
| Gord Pritchard | SIAT | May 31, 2013 |

| Student Member Elected by Senate | | Term Ends |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Choo-Ming Yeak | Student | May 31, 2013 |
| Andreas Pilarinos | Alternate Student | May 31, 2013 |

| Elected by Senate from Community at Large | Term Ends |
|--|------------------|
| Margit Nance | May 31, 2013 |
| Laurence Turner | May 31, 2013 |

Office of Research Ethics

Hal Weinberg, Director, Ex-officio (non-voting)
 Dina Shafey, Associate Director (non-voting)
 Barb Zollinger, Ethics Manager

Janet Yule, Ethics Assistant
 Angela Tai, Office Assistant
 Paola Pinto Vidal, Office Assistant (1/2 time)

Demand For Research Ethics Review

All SFU Faculty, Staff and Students with new studies submit an initial application for ethical review which must be reviewed and receive approval by the SFU REB and/or the Director/Associate Director, ORE before any research-related procedures can be conducted. Applications for amendments to previously approved studies are also received throughout the year for studies that require changes to the research protocol, consent form(s) or other documentation. All amendments must be approved prior to implementation.

Throughout September 2011 to August 2012, 589 requests for initial ethical review of research were received and reviewed by the SFU REB/ORE. The volume of initial ethical reviews increased from the previous years (Figure 1, Figure 2). Additionally, there were 11 REB approved courses this past year.

Figure 1: Minimal Risk Study Approvals by Academic Year September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2012.

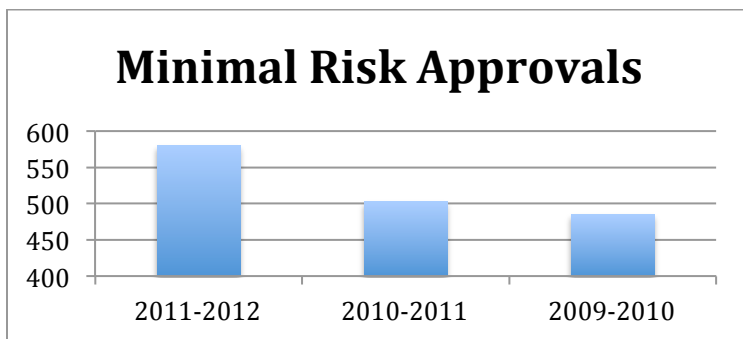
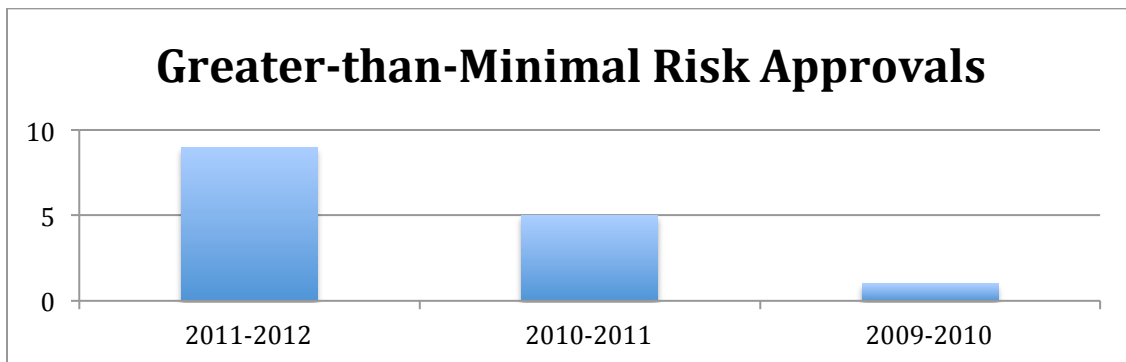
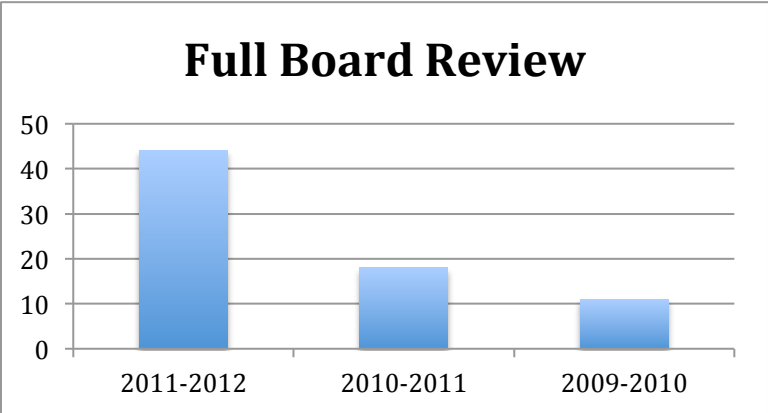


Figure 2: Greater-Than-Minimal Risk Study Approvals by Academic Year September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2012.



Proportionate review requires that research studies that may be designated as greater-than-minimal risk or are more complex in nature must be reviewed by the Full Board. Delegated review for new applications can occur when the study is considered to be of minimal risk to the prospective participants. Figure 3 highlights the number of applications that were reviewed by the Full Board.

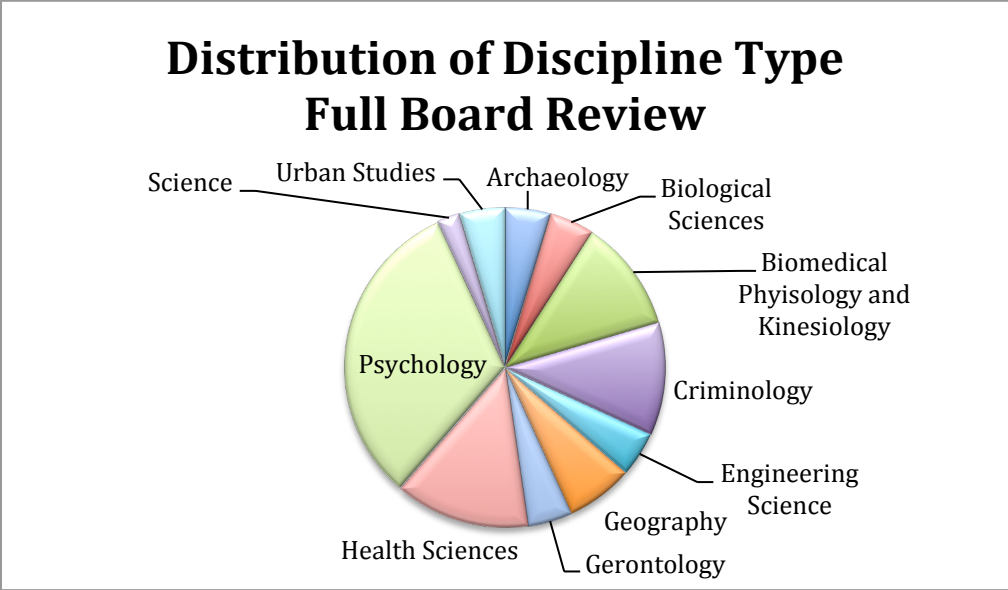
Figure 3: Full Board Reviews Conducted by Academic Year September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2012



Note the increase in Full Board Reviews conducted this past year compared to previous years. This increase demonstrates the growth in the number of complex research studies being conducted by SFU faculty, students and staff and the time required for the REB members to conduct these reviews to ensure participants' safety and that risks to participants are properly managed and mitigated.

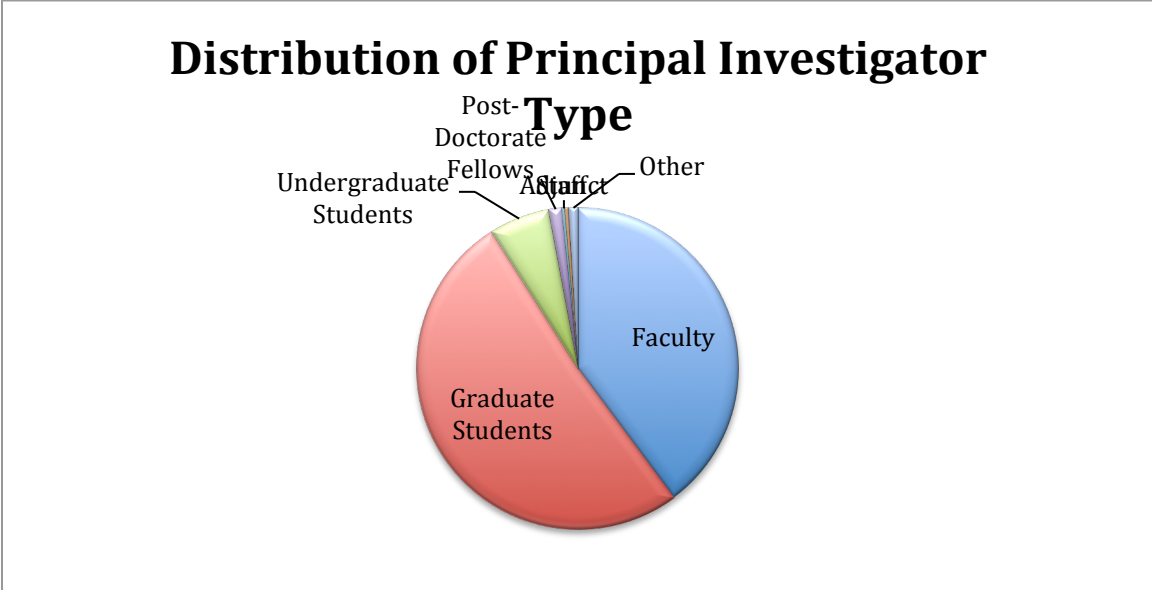
Many different types of research studies are reviewed by the Full Board. Figure 4 shows the distribution of research studies reviewed by the Full Board for various SFU Faculties and Departments.

Figure 4: Full Board Review Distribution of Research Studies by Discipline Type



More than half of the research studies conducted at SFU are conducted by graduate students as the principal investigators (Figure 5). SFU is fairly unique among Canadian Universities in permitting graduate students to be named principal investigators on research studies. There are many challenges in permitting graduate students to apply for research ethics review as principal investigators because of the minimal research experience that they have obtained to date. However, in permitting students to apply for research ethics review as principal investigators, SFU and the SFU REB have given these students an opportunity to understand the necessity of thinking about the impact their research can have on individuals as well as communities.

Figure 5: Distribution of Research Studies by Principal Investigator Type



Challenges Ahead

The SFU REB continues to evolve and keep current with best practices in the ethical review of research. As research ethics is always in “evolution”, the SFU REB is striving towards the application of consistent standards. The SFU REB has undergone a process to keep abreast of the revisions to the Tri-Council Policy Statement and its obligations to revise REB policies accordingly. The revisions to R20.01 will require that the Office of Research Ethics Tutorial for Graduate Students be revised to reflect those policy changes.

In addition, the SFU REB will continue to participate in a provincial exercise, carried out under the auspices of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, to develop and implement harmonized ethical review processes in British Columbia for multi-jurisdictional research. The SFU REB will continue to evaluate how the review process can be streamlined to eliminate any unnecessary redundancy.