

Institutional Review Board Minutes
April 5, 2007

Members present: Allen, Evans, Finney, Gallacher, Kaminsky, McCoy, Preiss, Ochosi, Wilson

The meeting was opened at 11:00 AM in Wyatt 326

1. Protocol #0607-001.

- The researchers have requested a modification of this protocol. They would like to modify the consent form to offer course credit instead of money if the student wishes it.
- Modification approved unanimously.

2. Review of College Board study:

- The Board reviewed materials from researchers wanting to survey college applicants, including those to UPS.
- The surveys that would be used are the ones submitted to the Board. They were carefully reviewed for sensitive items by McCoy. One assessment asks applicants about their behavior. It includes questions about cheating, stealing, and truancy. The other assessment gives scenarios. It asks about underage drinking and cheating.
- The contact at UPS informed the Board that the College Board would not have access to UPS applicant identities.
- Michigan State has approved this study. We were given an IRB application from Michigan State to review, but it did not appear to be about this study.
- The Board requests the Michigan State IRB application for this study. Further decisions on the study will be decided after those materials are received and reviewed.

3. Review of Protocol #0607-018

- Some questions were raised about the consent form about potential risks and the way they are described. The researcher was present at the meeting and explained that the IRB at the facility where the research will be conducted requests that language be presented a specific way. The consent form is consistent with that language.
- The date for the end of research needs to be corrected as it currently reads that the study will end in 2005.
- The Board unanimously approved the protocol pending the change in date.

4. Review of Protocol #0607-019

- There was a good deal of discussion about the Board's role in this project as it did not strike the Board as an experiment. Rather, it seems to be an art project that uses potentially sensitive material. Some of the issues that were raised included:
 - This type of exhibit has been done in the past. What is the merit in doing it again?
 - There was no statement about the broader purpose of the project.
 - The language in the description is very strongly worded. There was some discussion here about the use of language in different disciplines.
 - Nothing was included in the proposal about data analysis.

- Following this discussion, the Board decided that we are not going to oversee this process as it does not seem to involve human subjects in a research project. Some of the recommendations include using a photographic waiver (as opposed to a consent form) that project participants sign. The waiver should clearly indicate how photographs will be used. The Board recommends that participants have an opportunity to review photographs and give approval before any photographs are displayed.

5. Review of Protocol #0607-011

- This protocol was reviewed in the December 7, 2006 and February 8, 2007 meeting and was sent back to the student researcher and advisor for revision. The student researcher attended the IRB meeting to discuss questions from the Board
- The student researcher discussed several points with the Board:
 - The student researcher would train a staff person in each location in Iran. The staff person would describe the study to potential participants and leave questionnaires for them to fill out if they desired. The staff person would not observe participants pick up the questionnaires. Completed questionnaires would be returned directly to the student researcher. The staff members at the facility would not be aware of who participated in the study and who had not.
 - The student researcher stated that a consent form is not culturally appropriate for the study population.
 - There were some questions about some of the terminology that is used in the study materials and whether or not these terms would be meaningful to the study population in Iran. The student researcher stated that there are comparable terms in Farsi that are understood by the general population.
 - Some questions were brought up about assessing barriers to desired activities. There was some discussion about the cultural relevance of these questions.
 - A letter of support from the organization in Iran is needed. This should be faxed to the student researcher soon.
- The student researcher left the meeting and the Board discussed further. The Board would like to see a protocol with clear directions created for staff people at the institutions. The protocol needs to outline exactly what they should say and do to protect the confidentiality of the participants and avoid potential coercion. The Board also needs to receive the letter of support. The student researcher will be asked to turn these documents in to McCoy. Upon receipt of these documents, the protocol will be approved. This plan was approved unanimously.

6. Review of Protocol #0607-020

- The Board ran out of time to discuss this protocol in this meeting. The protocol will be discussed electronically.

7. Review of Protocol #0607-021 will be postponed until the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tatiana Kaminsky, IRB Secretary