

Members present: Roger Allen, Lisa Ferrari, John Finney, Robin Foster, Kathi Lovelace, Yvonne Swinth, and John Woodward. Visitor present: Mirelle Cohen.

## **I. Business**

1. IRB members approved the October 7 minutes with minor corrections.
2. Chair Allen distributed a revised copy of the Informational Follow-Up. IRB members suggested additional modifications. (a) To omit "spend a moment" from the fifth line of the opening passage, such it reads: "...process, please respond to the following questions..." (b) To number the 3 main items: project status, alterations to protocol, and incidents.

IRB members approved the Informational Follow Up with revisions. It was also agreed that the document should be passed along to IRB representatives in departments that have expedited review.

## **II. Proposals Reviewed: The committee reviewed four protocols (#0405-002 through 0404-005).**

1. *Protocol #0405-002. Decision: No vote was taken. IRB members recommended (1) for issues of feasibility that the researcher consider using a database rather than collecting data, and (2) if he/she decides to collect data, then the IRB requests the researcher to revise and resubmit the proposal.*

This student project proposed to administer a questionnaire to public high school students, teachers, and counselors with the purpose of assessing the extent and quality of counseling for students with different academic abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Major concerns raised by the IRB included (1) feasibility, (2) questionnaire design and item format, and (3) potential experimenter bias.

2. *Protocol #0405-003. Decision: IRB members unanimously agreed to return this protocol for revision and resubmission.*

This student project proposed to use content analysis to study stereotypes depicted in cartoons, and then to interview children to study their perceptions about cartoons that they watch. Primary concerns raised by IRB members included the need for (1) further clarification and elaboration on measures and (2) a clearer connection between the two facets of the study (cartoon analysis and interviews).

3. *Protocol #0405-004 Decision: IRB members did not approve this protocol, but offered suggestions to help this study comply with IRB standards.*

This student project proposed to study attitudes toward HIV testing among adolescents and young adults who frequent a local youth center. The project received strong support from

the youth center. Concerns raised by IRB members included (1) the lack of parental consent for the adolescent participants and (2) the personal nature of many of the questions given the subject demographics. A general issue emerged about whether a student could collect data as employee of an outside agency that would then be used as part of research project for university credit. The IRB agreed that such in such a situation, the project must pass University IRB guidelines.

4. *Protocol #0405-005. Decision: IRB members unanimously agreed to return this protocol for revision and resubmission.*

This student project proposed to study the effect of role model characteristics on a participants' self esteem and resiliency, with an interest in factors that help children overcome adversity. Participants would be children enrolled in a university sponsored mentoring program. Main concerns about this project raised by IRB members were, (1) the lack of clearly developed and detailed procedures and measures, (2) potential for unintentional coercion given that the experimenter works in the program, (3) a lack of current theory on resiliency in the proposal.

### **III. Other issues**

1. Following deliberation of the above proposal, the secretary agreed to request immediate correction of the Associate Dean's phone number (253-879-3207) in the IRB web documents.

The next scheduled meeting of the IRB is Thursday December 2, 2004 from 8:00-9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted 12/02/04  
Robin Foster