

**Institutional Review Board Minutes
February 12, 2003**

Members Present: Cohen, Coogan, Ferrari, Finney, Preiss, Swinth, Woodward

Absent: Kay, Wells

Meeting was called to order at 9:05. The committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting on December 16. There were two modifications to the minutes. Swinth's name was misspelled and Ferrari-Comeau now goes by Ferrari. With these amendments, the minutes were approved.

The following dates are scheduled for the next IRB meetings March 5, April 2, and May 7.

0203-002 Several committee members felt that the proposal was an improvement over the previous version. There were still concerns about the specificity of her questions. Swinth reported that the applicant has done some reading on the subject of qualitative research. Members of the committee encouraged the applicant to continue to work with her advisor to make the research and the interview questions more focused. The interview questions need to be more in the nature of probes. Woodward was concerned that the applicant might lead students toward answers that were "interviewer directed." The study will also have to be approved by the IRB and the host institution (i.e., school district). If the protocol should change, the applicant will need to file a modification to the IRB. There was also a concern about the strong language in the "right to refuse participation in the study" section of the proposal. This could be modified to be less strident. The protocol was approved pending modifications.

Preiss raised the concern of "virtual" surveys where students are being asked questions on line. Preiss suggested that when it is purely a curricular issue, these surveys are not an IRB concern. However, other kinds of virtual surveys should be screened through Preiss and Finney. If the activity crosses a threshold of sensitivity, the activity could be brought to the attention of the IRB.

Cohen raised the question of whether or not there was such a thing as a "blanket approval" for research studies. Preiss responded that there was not because of the potential that any work, particularly off campus, could present more than minimal risks to participants.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37

Respectfully Submitted

John Woodward