



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Annual Report

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Chair of the IRB, Emily Cook

Report Summary

- The IRB received 71 applications, including new protocols, renewals, and amendments to approved protocols. The number of protocols received was similar to last year. We had a larger amount of protocols than in previous years that were submitted and received feedback but were not resubmitted as of the date of this report. Typically, we have about three protocols that have not been resubmitted as of June 30th; this year, we had eight.
- The IRB met monthly during the academic year. These meetings were held via zoom. Expedited and exempt reviews were conducted by the chair between meetings. Most of the applications received were reviewed as exempt or expedited. Only ten applications required full board review, which was similar to last year.
- There were no study complaints and or reports of unanticipated problems/adverse events.
- There were no instances of noncompliance.
- 290 faculty, staff, or students completed the CITI training over the past year.
- There were two Institutional Authorization Agreements (IAA) that were signed that allowed RIC to be the IRB of record.

Committee members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Term</i>
Dr. Emily Cook, Chair	Psychology	2022-2025
Dr. Jesse Capece	Social Work and Prisoner Advocate	2022-2025
Dr. Christine Connolly	School of Business	2020-2023
Dr. Adrienne Goss	Educational Studies	2022-2025
Dr. Ted Jenkins	Communication	2022-2025
Dr. Paul LaCava	Special Education	2020-2023
Dr. Maria Muccio-Raposa	Director, Center for Scholar Development	2022-2025
Dr. Penni Sadlon	Nursing	2020-2023
Dr. Jason Sawyer	Health and Physical Education	2020-2023
Dr. Lauren Thorngate	Unaffiliated member	2022-2023

Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were set at the onset of the 2022-2023 academic year: Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 13, and May 19. All of these meetings were held.

Expedited and Exempt proposals were reviewed online by the IRB Chair during all months.

Summary of Applications

	Total	New	Renewal	Amendment
2022-2023	71	56	4	11
2021-2022	75	50	5	20
2020-2021	89	67	5	17
2019-2020	83	55	10	18
2018-2019	115	70	12	33
2017-2018	94	67	15	12
2016-2017	95	60	17	18
2015-2016	90	57	13	20

Additional research projects were discussed with the Chair or submitted to Topaz but were determined not to be subject to the federal policy, and are not included in these counts.

Applications and other inquiries were received from faculty, staff, and students in departments representing all five schools on campus. Applications were received from:

- Anthropology
- Communication
- Counseling, Ed. Leadership, & School Psychology
- Educational Studies
- Health & Physical Ed
- Health Care Administration
- Management
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- URI/RIC joint Ph.D.

Unanticipated Problems/Adverse Events Reports

There were no unanticipated problems or adverse events reported to the IRB.

Noncompliance Reports

There were no noncompliance reports to the IRB.

Mandatory Research Ethics Training

All investigators using human participants are required to complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online training program. In the last year, 290 researchers completed the CITI training. Of them, 176 completed the student class projects training module. CITI training must be renewed every 5 years.

Central Falls/Rhode Island College Innovation Lab

There were no proposals reviewed on behalf of the Central Falls School District. The IRB did not include a member from the Central Fall School District given that no research proposals have been reviewed from there in the last five years.

Committee By-Laws

The IRB by-laws were reviewed and small changes need to be made to the website to reflect the language of Provost and not Vice President for Academic Affairs, as this name is no longer used to describe this role.

Policies/Procedures Updates

The IRB Policies and Procedures Manual was briefly reviewed at a meeting and it was decided that the Chair would look through specific sections over the summer and update for review in Fall 2023.

Updates

The following changes and updates were made throughout the year. As a committee, we worked on a document that will be posted on the website that provides recommendations for using inclusive language when asking demographic questions on surveys. We also updated

our consent forms to make the language easier to understand. Updates to the website will or have been made that include (a) changes in non-compliance, problems, and adverse events and (b) changes to frequently added questions to include information on engaged research

Committee Recommendations

The committee has the following recommendations some of which were also recommended in previous years: (a) recruiting a student representative on the committee, (b) adding an alternative member to the committee who speaks other languages and could be brought in to review applications with translated documents, (c) continuing to increase diversity on the committee, (d) encouraging researchers who are conducting research in communities where other languages are predominately spoken to consider translating documents to better represent those communities (e) consider replacing TOPAZ with another IRB platform given the rising costs and technical issues, and (e) providing on-line content for faculty, staff, and students that is more accessible (e.g., videos). The committee has tried to implement the first three recommendations, with some success, over the previous years but has had trouble recruiting interested students, faculty, or staff. The Chair would also like to continue offering training throughout the year, as well as Q&A sessions where faculty and students can ask their IRB related questions.