

**Institutional Review Board  
2020-2021  
Year End Report**

**I – Members:**

Joshua Smallridge (Chair)  
Joe Shaver  
Michael Ransom  
Tad Kato  
Zach Moore  
Janie Leary  
Kristy Henson  
Stephen Rice  
Raymond Alvarez  
Debra Hoag  
Theresa Jones  
Amy Godfrey  
Julia Dos Santos  
Mahmood Hossain  
Jamie L. Miller

**II: Activities:**

- A. The committee reviewed applications for approval to conduct research involving human subjects from individuals planning projects for school courses, and faculty working on individual or departmental research projects. For class wide student research projects each student's proposal was reviewed individually but approval was sent to the instructor for the class. Most projects this year were submitted and approved under the exempt category. In these cases, the IRB chair or another designated IRB member will review the proposal to make sure it is minimal risk and meets the requirements for exempt review. The exempt review category is somewhat of a misnomer. As it does not mean the proposal is not reviewed. It means the proposal is reviewed by a much smaller group of IRB members who make sure it is of minimal risk and qualifies as an exempt review. If it does not qualify it is sent out sent under the expediated or full review categories. For more information regarding what qualifies as an exempt review please review to the IRB decision charts <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/decision-charts-2018/index.html>.

**Fall 2020 Approvals**

1. Minimal Risk approval given to Abbey Ammons for research under the exempt category on September 28, 2020.
2. Approval given to Laya Rylee for research under the exempt category on October 7, 2020.
3. Minimal Risk approval given to Alexis Hicks and Laura Clayton on October 21, 2020.
4. Approval given to Joshua Smallridge under the except category on October,28, 2020.

5. Minimal risk approval given on October 8, 2020 for Dr. Kato's Psychology 3390 (Capstone of Psychology). 7 groups of 3-4 students. Each project was approved under the exempt category.
6. Minimal Risk approval given to Caroline Thompson on October 13, 2020.
7. Permission given to Gabby Hoefler, a researcher from Brown University, to use Fairmont State Students for research. This process involves the researcher sending the approval letter and IRB application from their University. That is then reviewed by the IRB. If everything looks good permission is sought from Fairmont State administration for the research to access our students. In this case through email. Permission given on November 11, 2020.
8. Approval given to Brianna Mascara for changes made to study design of a previous IRB submission on November 11, 2020.
9. Minimal Risk approval given to Leia Bobo and Laura Clayton on November 23, 2020.

### **Spring 2021 Approvals**

1. Minimal risk approval given to Jessica Jones and Julia Dos Santos on February 2, 2021.
2. Provisional minimal risk approval given to Andrea Haney on February 8, 2021.
3. Minimal risk approval given to Erin Danik on February 10, 2021.
4. Minimal risk approval given to Taylor Wisniewski on February 13, 2021.
5. Minimal risk approval given on February 23, 2021 for Dr. Moore's Psychology 3390 (Capstone of Psychology). 21 student projects. Each project was approved under the exempt category.
6. Approval given to Anthony Hardy for research under the exempt category on March 5, 2021.
7. Minimal risk approval given to Taylor Wisniewski on April 6, 2021.
8. Minimal risk approval given to Chandler Zavala and Michael Nuzumm on April 6, 2021.
9. Minimal risk approval given to Nina Slota, Janie Leary, Molly Simpson, and Claire Dever on April 6, 2021.
10. Minimal risk approval given to Miriam Osungwu and Nina Slota on April 6, 2021.

### **Other Activities:**

1. COVID guidelines and directions were added to the instructions for an IRB on the website. Safety related to COVID-19 was considered as part of each IRB reviewed for this year.
2. Federalwide Assurance (FWA) was renewed. Expires 2/26/2024. Will need renewed again before then.
3. IORG will need to be renewed in 2022. Both IORG and FWA are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Keeping these two registrations up to date is critical to the continued operation of the IRB.
4. Subscription to CITI Programing renewed for the year. CITI is used for IRB training that must be completed before researchers may start their projects.

**Submitted by Joshua Smallridge, IRB Chair**