

Research Ethics Board Annual Report 2016-2017

Submitted: August 31, 2017

As Chair of the Research Ethics Board (REB), I am pleased to provide this annual report. Over the 2016-2017 academic year, the REB met ten times.

2016: September 16, October 21, November 25

2017: January 20, February 24, March 24, April 21, May 26, June 23, August 25

During 2016-2017, the REB membership consisted of Arleigh Reichl (Chair; Psychology), Farhad Dastur (Psychology), Lisa Freeman (Criminology), Nathalie Gagnon (Criminology), Karen Harrison (Community), Lisa Kitt (Criminology), Julia Murphy (Anthropology), and Katie Warfield (Journalism). Maureen Buchholz (Community) served until her retirement from the board at the end of May. As a community member, Maureen brought an extremely valuable perspective, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for volunteering her time to serve on the board. The diversity of disciplines represented on the REB was reflective of the majority of applications we received.

The REB received 72 new applications this year, with the vast majority of these being minimal risk. This represents an increase of 14% over the number of applications submitted in the previous year (which saw an increase of 15% over the previous year). Of the new applications, 20 were applications for course-based research (a 43% increase over the previous year). Six applications were withdrawn following review. In addition, the board processed 27 progress and completion reports. The new applications received over the year represented a broad diversity of areas, topics, and methods, and presented the board with a number of new ethical issues. The board also received two clinical applications which, as a behavioural REB, we are not trained to review. One of these projects was reviewed by Quorum, a private REB service, and the other likely will be as well.

As Chair, I reviewed all minimal risk applications (as REB delegate). Most minimal risk applications were also reviewed by one or more REB members based on their research expertise. Applications that were assessed as beyond minimal risk underwent full board review. All applications were presented to the full board at its monthly meetings, where they were discussed as necessary, and all decisions documented. During the month of July, Julia Murphy served as Acting Chair while I was on vacation (for which I am most thankful).

On the administrative side, we were exceptionally fortunate to welcome Foluso Fagbamiye as our new Research Ethics Coordinator. She has been extraordinarily helpful in managing and processing REB applications for review, particularly with respect to the management of applications through ROMEQ, handling inquiries, providing weekly reports to the chair, and preparing necessary materials for monthly REB meetings. Her support is essential to the REB's ability to carry out its mandate. Foluso succeeds Cathy Parlee, who did an outstanding job as interim coordinator. We owe Cathy an enormous debt of gratitude for her invaluable service.

Research ethics education remains an important priority for our REB. As part of our professional development, members attended research ethics conferences organized by PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) in Anaheim and CAREB (Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards) in Halifax, as well as the REB West conference hosted by SFU and UBCO. These

educational opportunities continue to be critical in keeping the REB informed about developments in research ethics regionally, nationally, and internationally. On the other side, the REB continues to be available for education and guidance to researchers at KPU. As chair I continue to attend classes, when invited, to give presentations and contribute to discussions. I have also answered numerous inquiries, and provided advice to many researchers outside of the review process. In June, 2017, the REB held a retreat, in conjunction with our monthly meeting, for the purposes of planning and strategizing ways to gather data on researchers' (and non-researchers') experiences with the REB and the ethics review process. The retreat was led by Karen Harrison, our community member and experienced facilitator, and proved to be an extremely valuable session.

Through our work as REB members, we have identified a number of "emerging" ethical issues. First, the growing use of technology to gather data continues to receive increased attention with regards to consent, data security, and participant anonymity. Second, like many institutions, we are often finding it difficult to determine if a project is research (requiring REB review), or quality assurance/improvement or program evaluation (exempt from REB review). Third, we are encountering an increasing number of applications involving multijurisdictional research, which raises questions of whether to conduct an independent review or accept the review of another institution. Finally, there is the challenge posed by clinical applications. Whereas more established institutions have separate clinical REBs to review clinical applications, KPU has only a behavioural REB and we are not trained to review clinical applications. We are working to learn more about the ethical issues in each of these areas.

As Chair, I wish to thank Dr. Stephanie Chu and the Office of Research and Scholarship (Leslee Birch, Cathy Parlee, Aimee Fauteux, Hannah Mapanoo) for their continued support of the REB. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the current REB members for their dedication to their job, their collegiality towards each other, and their continuing support of me. It has been a tremendous pleasure to work with such an outstanding group of people.

With the start of the new academic year, two board members, Nathalie Gagnon and Julia Murphy, will have completed their terms. We extend our deepest gratitude to them for all their valuable service. At the same time, we are extremely pleased to welcome Dave Lyon (Criminology) to the board. We are currently in the process of selecting another community member, and preparing to bring on a student member as well. The inclusion of a student member will be a change for the REB membership, but is encouraged by the TCPS for institutions with much student research. We are in the process of consulting with other REBs on how best to implement this change. I know I speak for the entire board when I say we look forward to the coming year and continuing to promote ethical research at KPU.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ARLEIGH REICHL', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Arleigh Reichl, PhD
Chair, Research Ethics Board