

Research Ethics Board Annual Report 2017-2018

Submitted: August 31, 2018

As Chair of the Research Ethics Board (REB), I am pleased to provide this annual report. Over the 2017-2018 academic year, the REB met ten times.

2017: September 29, October 27, November 25

2018: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 20, May 25, June 29, August 24

During 2017-2018, the REB membership consisted of Arleigh Reichl (Chair; Psychology), Farhad Dastur (Psychology), Lisa Freeman (Criminology), Dave Lyon (Criminology), Karen Harrison (Community), Lisa Kitt (Criminology), and Katie Warfield (Journalism).

We were most fortunate to fill a vacant position for a community member with John Anderson, who brings a highly valuable perspective as a non-academic, with experience in education and government.

This year, in accordance with recommendations from the TCPS2 and consultations with other REBs, we created a position for a student member on the REB. Chaufa Nguyen (Honours BA, Psychology) was selected and joined the REB in January. Her perspective and contributions have proved to be a very valuable asset to the board.

The REB received 80 new applications this year, with the vast majority of these being minimal risk. This represents an increase of 11% over the number of applications submitted in the previous year (which follows an increase of 14% over the previous year, which saw an increase of 15% over the previous year). Of the new applications, 17 were applications for course-based research (a 15% decrease over the previous year). 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 by the UBC Clinical Research Ethics Board (because one co-investigator was affiliated with UBC).

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, Lisa Freeman and Katie Warfield served as acting co-Chairs while I was on vacation (for which I am most thankful).

On the administrative side, we were exceptionally fortunate to have Foluso Fagbamiye as our 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.

Research ethics education remains an important priority for our REB. As part of our professional development, members attended research ethics conferences organized by CAREB (Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards) in Montreal, as well as the REB West conference hosted by SFU and UBCO. These educational opportunities continue to be critical in keeping the REB up to

date with evolving developments in research ethics regionally, nationally, and internationally. Because of cuts to the REB's budget for travel and professional development this year, we faced difficult challenges in providing board members with these essential training opportunities. Initial and ongoing training for REB members is mandated by the TCPS2, and we require adequate funding for attendance at research ethics conferences, which provide the very best training opportunities.

On the other side, the REB continues to be available for education and guidance to researchers at KPU and beyond. As Chair, I continue to attend classes to give presentations and contribute to discussions. Board member Lisa Freeman also gave an invited class presentation on research ethics. In addition, board member Katie Warfield, a recognized expert in the ethics of online research, gave invited presentations at St. Thomas University and Mount Allison University. Katie's student RAs presented at CAREB as well, and she and her RAs presented at KPU's Teaching and Scholarship Day. I have also answered numerous inquiries, and provided advice to many researchers outside of the review process. In June, 2018, the REB held a retreat, in conjunction with our monthly meeting, for the purposes of planning and strategizing about priorities for the coming year. 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 increasing number of community-based research projects, particularly those associated with course requirements, poses challenges for timely review and ensuring the ethical conduct of research in the field, sometimes with vulnerable populations and/or inexperienced researchers. Second, the broader movement toward open data raises new issues of confidentiality and participant consent for sharing of data. Third, we continue to encounter an increasing number of applications involving multijurisdictional research, which creates challenges for efficient review by two or more REBs. Fourth, KPU and other institutions under the TCPS2 have been mandated to develop policy around data management. Though the REB must certainly have a role in this, it must be addressed by the AVP Research. 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 and Cathy Parlee) 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, three board members, Lisa Kitt, Karen Harrison and myself, will have completed our terms. We extend our deepest gratitude to them for all their valuable service. In accordance with KPU Procedure RS1, we conducted a search for new board members in the Spring, and we are extremely pleased to welcome Ari Goelman (Business), Karen Davison (Biology), Joan Posivy (Community member), and Tara Lyons (Criminology; selected for a one year appointment while Katie Warfield is on Educational Leave). Also in accordance with KPU Procedure RS1, Lisa Freeman was elected by acclamation as the new Chair of the REB for the 2018-19 academic year.

As I step down from my role as Chair and member of the REB, I wish the continuing and new members, and incoming Chair, all the best in carrying out their mandate. I have no doubt they will be successful in advancing 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', written in a cursive style.

Arleigh Reichl, PhD
Chair, Research Ethics Board