

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)

MEETING MINUTES

Friday 19th November 2021 | 11:00am Online Videoconference (via Zoom)

PRESENT: Melrona Kirrane (Chair), Adam Platt, Fiona Brennan, Michael Parkinson, Damian O'Donohue, Claire McCarrick, Anne Morrissey, Gareth Jones, Mengting Wang, Michael Breen, Bert Gordijn, Brendan Egan, Silvia Rocchetta, Ellen Drumm, Mary Sharp, Dónal Mulligan (FHSS F-REC Chair), Aisling Ní Dhiorbhain (IoE FERP Chair), Noel Prior (DPU), Joan O'Connell (DPU), Geraldine Healy (DPU),

APOLOGIES:, Audrey Bryan, Marta Rocchi (on leave), Peter Nowlan, Martin Ward (DPU), Kate Irving, Andy Healy

REVIEWED BY: DCU REC

AGENDA:			
1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA			
2. REC CHAIR INTRODUCTION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Review of local school/unit undergraduate and taught masters activity reports (2020-2021).</i> <i>b. DPU Health Research Memo circulated for comment.</i> <i>c. REC vice-chair EOI</i> 			
3. FHSS F-REC CHAIR INTRODUCTION & UPDATE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr. Dónal Mulligan (FHSS F-REC Chair) update 			
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 22nd October 2021 & MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING			
5. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS			
6. AOB			
KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:			
Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
1.	Agenda Adopted	N/A	N/A
2.a.	The local school/unit undergraduate and taught masters activity reports reviewed at this meeting were discussed. One of the reports was missing the project titles of approved research projects. It was noted that titles of projects should be provided to REC, in order to give the committee an understanding of the types of research that are being conducted locally.	The REC administrator to feed this back to the local ethics panels.	As soon as possible.

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2.b.	<p>REC members were invited to provide feedback on the DPU memo to REC, regarding health research, that had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The REC were happy to approve the memo for circulation to other local ethics panels within the schools/faculties.</p>	REC Administrator to disseminate the memo to local ethics panel contacts as soon as possible.	Before the next REC meeting.
2.c.	The REC Chair reminded members that the REC is still looking to appoint a new Vice-Chair to the committee.	REC members interested in the position should contact the REC Chair directly.	N/A
3.	<p>Dr. Dónal Mulligan, the Chair of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) F-REC, provided his update.</p> <p>The F-REC met for the first time on the 11th of November 2021. The committee reviewed 11 low-risk applications in total. At the time of the update, 4 of 11 applications had been approved; the remaining 7 applications require further clarification(s) before approval can be granted.</p> <p>One application submitted to the FHSS F-REC was escalated to DCU REC, for review at the next meeting (17th December 2021), due to being greater than low-risk research.</p> <p>Dónal asked REC members whether FHSS F-REC feedback to the applicant is helpful, in cases where the application is being escalated up to DCU REC. The REC Chair confirmed passing on comments to the applicant prior to escalation to DCU REC would be very useful.</p> <p>Finally, the topic of research with first year undergraduate students was raised. Specifically, it was asked whether the collection of low-risk surveys could still be considered low-risk, if there is potential for individuals in this</p>	N/A	N/A

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	cohort to be less than 18 years-old. DCU REC confirmed that involvement of minors in research would need to be escalated to REC for review. However, in this particular case, it would be best to exclude individuals under the age of 18 from the project as, under current legislation, the minimum age to consent to research procedures is 18 years-old. If the applicant did this then the research would be considered low-risk and could be reviewed at a local level by FHSS F-REC.		
4.	<p>The minutes from the previous full committee meeting (22nd October 2021) were approved.</p> <p>A total of 9 amendments to existing protocols have been approved in the period of the 22nd October 2021 – 19th November 2021</p>	N/A	N/A

5. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS: All REC Ref Numbers highlighted in **RED** were applications reviewed outside of usual REC meeting dates.

REC Ref No.	Comments	Decision
2021_231	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_232	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_233	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_234	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_235	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_236	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_237	Approved	Approved
2021_238	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_239	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_240	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_241	Approved	Approved
2021_242	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_243	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_244	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)

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2021_245	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)	
2021_246	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)	
2021_247	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)	
2021_248	Approved	Approved	
2021_249	Approved	Approved	
KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:			
Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
6.a	The data protection office is in the process of publishing on their website the most recent recording of the “GDPR for Researchers Training” and a list of the most commonly asked data protection/GDPR questions (regarding research).	Once this is published the REC administrator will provide a link to these resources via the REC webpages.	Once published by the data protection office.
	Next REC Committee meeting scheduled for 17th December 2021	N/A	N/A