

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)

MEETING MINUTES

Friday 27th August 2021 | 11:00am Online Videoconference (via Zoom)

PRESENT: Melrona Kirrane (Chair), Adam Platt, Fiona Brennan, Michael Parkinson, Kate Irving, Mary Sharp, Damian O'Donohue, Claire McCarrick, Ellen Drumm, Noel Prior, Anne Morrissey, Gareth Jones, Mengting Wang, Andy Healy, Michael Breen, Bert Gordijn, Joan O'Connell, Geraldine Healy

APOLOGIES: Brendan Egan, Audrey Bryan, Marta Rocchi, Peter Nowlan, Martin Ward

REVIEWED BY: DCU REC

AGENDA:			
1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA			
2. REC CHAIR INTRODUCTION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction from new REC Chair b. Review of local school/unit undergraduate and taught masters activity reports (2020-2021) 			
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 18th June 2021 & MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING			
4. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS			
5. AOB			
KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:			
Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
1.	Agenda Adopted	N/A	N/A
2.a.	The new REC Chair, Dr. Melrona Kirrane, introduced herself to the committee. The Chair thanked the committee for their contributions to date and acknowledged the work of the previous Chair, Dr. Geraldine Scanlon.	N/A	N/A
	An announcement was made by the Chair requesting expressions of interest for the vacant Vice-Chair role. Interested members were requested to contact the REC Chair directly.	REC Members to send expressions of interest to the REC Chair.	Not defined.

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2.b	The REC reviewed the local school/unit undergraduate and taught masters activity reports that it had received to date. There were no comments in relation to the content of the reports, however, it was noted that the reports weren't always using the template that was provided on the REC website. One suggestion was that the forms also contain a column to indicate who the approvers were for each application.	No subsequent action was defined at the meeting.	N/A
3.	DCUREC/2021/156 – One item outstanding regarding participant withdrawal and the point in which participants could withdraw their data. Following discussion, the REC will go back to the applicant to clarify how the researchers will ensure that participants' narrative data isn't identified by third parties.	REC administrator to give feedback to the researcher for DCUREC/2021/156.	As soon as possible.
	DCUREC/2021/132 – This application was approved on the condition that the applicant continues to engage with the DPU.	REC administrator to issue REC approval for DCUREC/2021/132.	As soon as possible.
	The DPU clarified that the new child protection policy and training requirements are currently with the Chief Operations Officer for approval.	N/A	N/A
	The minutes from the previous full committee meeting (18 th June 2021) were approved. A total of 13 amendments to existing protocols have been approved in the period of the 18 th June 2021 – 27 th August 2021	N/A	N/A

4. 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_179	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_180	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_181	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)

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2021_182	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_184	Approved	Approved
2021_185	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_186	Application subsequently withdrawn as it related to a taught masters research project	Withdrawn
2021_187	Approved	Approved
2021_188	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_189	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_190	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_191	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_192	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_193	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_194	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_195	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_196	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_197	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_198	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)

KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:

Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
5.a	The DCU REC Calendar that was circulated prior to the meeting was discussed. No comments were raised.	REC administrator to send out email to ask members to come back to the REC if they have any objections.	As soon as possible.
5.b.	One REC member raised an item in relation to gender equality in research. The outcomes of the discussion were as follows: Whilst the REC can challenge/query researchers in cases where there is no good reason for excluding one sex from participating in a research project, it would not be within the REC's remit to generally promote research in underrepresented groups. From an institutional perspective this would fall under the remit of organisations like	N/A	N/A

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	Athena Swan.		
5.c.	<p>The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences are currently the only faculty to have devolved the review of low-risk ethics applications to faculty level. The Faculty Research Ethics Committee (F-REC) Chair is Dr. Dónal Mulligan, who will be sitting on DCU REC meetings from September.</p> <p>The F-REC Chair has provided the application forms that they plan to use locally, once a couple of items have been clarified these forms will be circulated to the committee for REC member input and sign-off.</p>	Local F-REC forms to be circulated to REC members.	As soon as available.
	Next REC Committee meeting scheduled for 24th of September 2021	N/A	N/A