

NATASHA M KASSULKE < >
to me, Casey

Hi Marc.

We received a copy of the questions (Have there been changes in the IRB process prompted by the high level of disgruntlement among principal investigators? If so, could you send me a summary or pertinent links? Or are changes still under consideration?) that you submitted to Casey Fellen. Since the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education oversees the IRB and has been instrumental in conducting and following up on the IRB Survey, we feel our office is best able to reply to your request.

Nadine Connor, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Policy and Compliance, has provided the following statement as an answer to your questions:

In response to the UW-Madison IRB Survey, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education convened a working group to study the issues raised in the survey results. Based on suggestions from that group, the office has already implemented a series of improvements to address some of those issues.

For example, the University has improved its protocol submission process and user experience by reducing the complexity of the ARROW system, reduced administration burden for those researchers who need to use the process, and transferred the ED/SBS IRB to the Office of the VCGRGE to provide additional support for IRB operations.

The OVCGRGE also has benchmarked the UW-Madison policies and practices against those of its peer institutions. This review included a study of federal human subjects regulations and interpretation of these federal regulations on campus.

This is a continuing quality improvement process involving faculty, staff and campus leadership, and the OVCGRGE will continue to look for ways to ensure administrative efficiencies, while making sure it does not hamper the IRBs' ability to carry out their responsibility to uphold the protection of human subjects, research accountability, and compliance with federal regulations.

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