COS INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD: BACKGROUND AND NEXT STEPS

Nathan Rexford
Prepared for College Council
16 May 2018
What is an IRB?

- Committee in an institution that has government approval to “allow” research projects with human subjects
- The IRB ensures fair treatment of subjects before, during, and after a study
  - Think Stanford Prison Experiment / Milgram Trials
Why does COS need an IRB?

- Nearly all academic journals require IRB approval for publications.
- Many professional conferences strongly prefer IRB approval.
- An IRB provides researchers protection against claims of harmful studies (*not* behavior).
- Several CCC’s maintain an active IRB.
  - From Copper Mountain to Foothill – De Anza
What does an IRB look like?

- A *minimum* of five members with at least one from each of the following groups:
  - “The Scientist”: Agent Scully
  - “The Non-scientist”: Agent Mulder
  - “The Outsider”: The Lone Gunmen
- Recommended to be at least half faculty
  - Current plan for COS IRB is a six member group with three faculty members.
What will the COS IRB do?

- Oversees approval process and coordinates with researchers on necessary edits
- Remain up-to-date on government policies concerning human research
- Hold monthly meetings to review low-impact proposals and vote on high-impact ones
What will the COS IRB **NOT** do?

- Guarantee that a research project can be done on the campus
- Provide detailed feedback on the quality of a research project
- Propose new research projects for the campus
- This is a *reactive* body that merely indicates *satisfaction* of government regulations
Next Steps for a COS IRB

- Creation of an IRB does **not** require the use of the shared governance process
  - But, we have been asked to first draft policies about the role of research and the IRB at COS
- These will be created over the summer for approval in the fall
THANK YOU.