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Consistent with the responsibility requirements established in the Research Ethics Board Policy (approved by Senate, 2016), this report summarizes the responsibilities and activities of the REB from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

The responsibilities of the St. Thomas University Research Ethics Board (REB) are outlined in Article 1.2 of the St. Thomas University Research Ethics Board Policy (see Appendix A). It reads as follows:

“The St. Thomas University Research Ethics Board (REB) is responsible to the President through the Associate Vice-President (Research) of St. Thomas University for:

- developing policies regarding ethical issues relating to the use of human participants in research;
- reviewing all protocols requiring the participation of human participants for ethical approval;
- reviewing annually all policies regarding ethical issues relating to the use of human participants in research projects to ensure that policies remain current;
- dealing with matters concerned with human-based research referred to the REB by the President or their designate of STU;
- monitoring ongoing research and terminating any project that does not conform to ethical standards;
- responding to inquiries from external agencies with responsibility to monitor ethics review procedures at the University;
- preparing an annual report for submission to the President or their designate;
- participating in continuing education matters relating to ethics and the use of human participants;
- organizing educational outreach opportunities for members of the STU community in matters relating to research ethics.

The policies and practices adopted by the STU REB will be consistent with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (current version).”

Member	Representation	Expiration of Appointment
Nick Sehl	Community Rep	June 30, 2022

Changes to membership

Stephen Pidwysocky finished in April 2022.

Clive Baldwin had his term renewed as Chair until June 30, 2024.

Donna Curtis Maillet was re-appointed to the Board as a community representative until June 30, 2024

Nick Sehl finished his term June 30, 2022.

The University endorses the ethical principles cited in the Tri-Council Policy Statement and has mandated its Research Ethics Board (REB) to ensure that all research investigations involving human participants are in compliance with the Statement.

The STU REB has jurisdiction over all STU Research involving human participants. As per the REB Policy (see Preamble), “STU Research” is that which is conducted:

- by members of the STU community (including faculty, students, and staff);
- by researchers in formal collaboration with STU members (e.g. co-investigator from another university or organization); or
- at STU or otherwise through the STU community (e.g. recruitment from STU community).

All STU Research which involves human participants must have ethical approval from the REB prior to commencement. In the case of undergraduate research that does not pose more than minimum risk to participants, ethics approval may be granted by a research ethics committee at the departmental or program level, as per Section 2.7 of the REB Senate Policy (2016).

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5.2 Recruitment of a replacement member to the committee.

The Committee is currently dominated by the social sciences. Recruitment for the replacement member will thus focus on the arts and humanities. Further, due to the number and frequency of applications from the Department of Psychology, it would be helpful to have a member of the Board from that Department. With Stephen Pidwysocky and Nick Sehl completing their terms, the REB is operating on a minimum number of members. Three further members will complete their terms in Dec 2022 and Jan 2023. It is therefore imperative that new members be recruited or serving members be allowed to renew their terms. Nick Sehl, Renée Bourgoïn, and Linda Caissie have all requested that their terms be renewed.

5.3 TCPS2 (2014) Compliance

As part of the REB's annual efforts to ensure compliance with the TCPS2 (2018), a number of review and revision processes are planned for the 2021-2022 year. These include the ongoing development and maintenance of the REB website and online application form. Best practices continue to be recorded and developed alongside research ethics resources.

The REB plans to continue to provide opportunities for ethics education through a variety of activities:

6.1 Preparation of Interpretation Documents

In response to frequently asked questions from STU researchers, the REB will continue its efforts to provide online resources for some of the more common terms and questions found concerning the TCPS2 (2014). Resources are posted on the ethics section of the STU website.

6.2 Presentation at 2022/2023 Chairs & Directors and AMC Meeting

Prior to Covid, it was regular practice for the REB Chair to present to the Departmental Chairs & Directors at one of their monthly meetings (preferably in the Fall term), as well as the administrative teams at an AMC meeting. This has not happened for the last two years. It is strongly recommended that ongoing efforts are made to continue REB education at the upper administrative and faculty levels.

6.3 Training Seminar/Workshop

It has also been a regular practice over the past few years for the REB to organize educational seminars and workshops for the STU community. This year, the Chair of the Board has presented on research ethics to the Dept of Sociology honours student seminar, the Dept of Psychology honours student seminar, the School of Social Work students on social action placements, and worked with the Department of Economics in their departmental approval of student thesis proposals.

6.4 CAREB and CARA Conferences Attendance

In keeping with past practice, participation at both the regional and national research ethics conferences will be encouraged for the REB Chair, REB Coordinator, and all REB members (funds permitting).

6.5 Modernization and Documentation of REB Processes

Work is continuing with Josh Leslie of Stewardly, a social purpose business in the human