Greetings from the Executive Director | Laura Lynn

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is having a good summer and has found some time to relax and rejuvenate.

Earlier in July, the Center for Research Quality (CRQ) provided two faculty development sessions at the summer university faculty meeting in National Harbor, Maryland. For our colleagues who were unable to attend these sessions, we will be reprising them in different forms during the fall. Watch for more details in our September edition of re:Research, and in information coming from the Center for Faculty Excellence. Summaries of those sessions follow:

**My Doctoral Research™—The Next Step in Research Capstone Management**

This session provided an introduction to Walden University's new My Doctoral Research (MyDR) system. The MyDR system was designed to assist students and their committees to navigate the doctoral research process from the initial prospectus to the final CAO approval. MyDR replaces the current e-mail-based approach to capstone completion with an online tool that uses a just-in-time, step-by-step system to manage the process for the various stakeholders and to curate all the documents and evaluations along the journey. Ways that the system has been integrated with other university processes (such as Blackboard) were demonstrated, with previews of MyDR from the perspectives of the student, the committee, and the program administrators. The session was presented by Lou Milanesi and Kristy Wake.

**Using Existing and Prospective Data in Research**

Although many faculty members and students collect original data in their projects, a growing number of Walden University researchers are answering their research questions through the secondary analysis of existing evidence and information. This session provided insights into the types of existing data available for retrospective secondary analysis, including some of the inherent challenges presented by each type, and clarified misperceptions about using this research strategy at our university. The presenters also...
described types of prospective strategies that can be utilized for secondary analysis when the data do not yet exist. Resources through the CRQ website were highlighted. The session was presented by Leilani Endicott, Louis Milanesi, Molly Lauck, Jenny Sherer, and me.

Our third CRQ-sponsored program at the faculty meeting was our annual Research Symposium, discussed next by Daniel Salter.

If you have any questions or comments, send them to us at CRQ@waldenu.edu.

Laura

2014 Research Symposium | Daniel Salter

Each year, Walden University hosts a research symposium during the Summer University Faculty Meeting. These “action shots” are from the symposium held this July in National Harbor.

At a symposium, selected members of our research community share their accomplishments, using two different formats.

The poster format gives researchers a chance to engage with all individuals attending the symposium and to network with other interested researchers. The presenters for the 36 posters at this symposium included individual faculty and research teams, as well as some of our graduates.

Using a roundtable format, 4 individual or groups of researchers were available for interactive discussions of their work.

Starting in 2012, we begun compiling a digest of all the posters, and we are actively collecting the ones from 2014. When completed at the end of August, that new digest can be found on the Center for Research Quality’s site under the Research Symposium Digests link. You can find the program from the 2014 symposium at the link now, however.
Upcoming Research Grant Opportunities | Molly Lauck

This fall, a number of research grant programs will be accepting new applications. These programs, sponsored by Walden University, are open to both faculty and student researchers. Detailed information about each program, including instructions about how to apply, are on the Internal Funding Resources page of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP) website. Questions about these programs should be directed to grants@waldenu.edu. Following are brief overviews and key dates for each program:

2014 Faculty Research Initiative Grant (FRIG) Program
The FRIG program was established to support excellence in scholarly work, and provides funding for select faculty research projects deemed to be of exceptional merit. The program is open to all faculty members that have been employed by Walden for a minimum of six months and provides “seed money” for the development of faculty research agendas. Funds can be used to support pilot research projects, small scale research studies and to supplement new areas of investigation that are spin-off studies or sub-studies of larger on-going research projects. The Director of the ORSP, working with the Research-based Review Committee, will make awards of up to $10,000, in response to research proposals submitted.

Program Timeline
- Intent to Apply Meeting: 9/4/2014 at Noon CST (Please contact grants@waldenu.edu to confirm your participation)
- Application deadline: 10/6/2014
- Grant recipients announced: 11/14/2014

2014 Presidential Research Fellowship (PRF) Program
The PRF program offers three $10,000 fellowships to support research:

1. The Don E. Ackerman Research Fellowship in Educational Leadership
2. The Research Fellowship in Distance Education
3. The Fellowship in Research and Applications for Social Change.

Both faculty and students are eligible to apply for these fellowships, although students intending to use the fellowship funds to support their doctoral capstone research should be nearing the point of defending their research proposal when they apply. Applicants are encouraged identify the one fellowship that best aligns with their research goals and apply to that fellowship only, rather than submitting proposals to all three fellowships.
Program Timeline

- Intent to Apply Meeting: 10/2/2014 at Noon CST (Please contact grants@waldenu.edu to confirm your participation)
- Application deadline: 10/30/2014
- Grant recipients announced: 12/1/2014

IRB Office Hours Referrals | Leilani Endicott

Please refer students to ‘IRB office hours’ if you see these red flags

Faculty and student responses to the new IRB Office hours have been very positive.

Please encourage your doctoral students to come ask questions (or just listen) at IRB office hours if their dissertation proposal will include any of the following tricky topics or populations. They are welcome even at the earliest proposal-writing phases-- earlier is better. In order to open up the dialogue, we just need your help getting them in the door.

Weekly group advising “office hours” timeslots are posted here. No advance registration.

Red Flags

All researchers planning to collect data in their own workplace can probably benefit from a consultation at IRB office hours—the dual roles will need to be managed and we can help the researcher explore possibilities early on. Also, many researchers are not aware that both retrospective and prospective secondary analysis of their site’s data is often an option. This strategy can often streamline steps and give the researcher a longer data collection window without extending the length of the program.

Research topics that would benefit from early ethics consultation:

The following types of data can be collected but only within certain ethical parameters:

- Questions about professional work that might lead to disclosure of behavior(s) or views that could potentially get someone fired or passed over for promotion (e.g., cutting corners, lack of compliance with policy, disagreement with leadership decisions)
• Questions about substance use, mental state, or violence that might obligate a referral or intervention to prevent harm to the participant (addiction, severe depression, suicidality, eating disorders, bullying, physical threats)

• Illegal activities in which the participant might incriminate him/herself via research data (e.g. illegal drug use, illegal immigration, child neglect, insider trading, harassment, assault, bullying, cyberbullying)

• Personal issues that could severely distress an individual if framed in a judgmental, non-inclusive, dismissive, or otherwise insensitive manner (ethnicity, body image, religion, etc.)

• Race or ethnicity as a variable or inclusion criterion

• Any study that involves any type of intervention (i.e., program designed to create change) in an education, psychological, or clinical setting

Studies specifically recruiting the following vulnerable populations also benefit from early ethics consultation. These may include:

• Subordinates of the researcher

• Colleagues of the researchers (are sometimes vulnerable if the topic is sensitive)

• Patients of the researcher

• Nursing home residents

• Minors (age 17 and under)

• Adult students of the researcher

• Prisoners

• Mentally impaired or disabled individuals

• Emotionally impaired or disabled individuals

• Physically impaired or disabled individuals

• Individuals who may be less than fluent in English (within US)

• Victims/witnesses of violent crime or other trauma

• Undocumented immigrants

• Active duty military personnel (due to the additional protections and gatekeeper approvals required by the federal government)

• Any others who may be particularly unable to protect their own rights or interest
Libby Munson - New Person Behind IRB@waldenu.edu

The IRB office has a new ‘front line’ person who manages the IRB@waldenu.edu account and her name is Libby Munson. Her position is Research Ethics Support Specialist, and she will be guiding student researchers through the [sometimes overwhelming] steps of preparing their IRB applications. The IRB office aims to do all it can to reduce potential frustration and surprises for students and help them be as well prepared as possible for the pragmatic ethical challenges of conducting research. Jenny Sherer, Associate Director, will now be able to take a larger role in the office’s compliance functions (preventive as well as reactive).

Libby comes to this position with a remarkable amount of research experience in her own undergraduate background, so she knows how it feels to be a student applying for IRB approval. Libby graduated from the University of Minnesota - Morris and holds Bachelor’s degrees in Psychology, Anthropology, and Liberal Arts for the Human Services. Libby has a strong interest in the criminal justice system and forensic psychology, the latter of which she hopes to study at the graduate level.

Our Mission
The overarching mission of the Center for Research Quality is to align, maintain, integrate, and enrich those activities that contribute to the quality and productivity of Walden University research. Accordingly, its offices formulate, coordinate, and oversee the processes that support student research capstones as well as external research conducted under the auspices of the University.