**Name of Committee:**
NTU IRB Committee

**Attendees:**
Dr. Peter Romine, Scott Halliday, Dr. Colleen W. Bowman, Dr. Franklin Sage, Tomacita Grey, Dr. Wafa Hozienm, Dr. Palmer Netongo, Dr. Casmir Agbaraji

**Absent:** Christine Reidhead, Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, Sheena Begay, Harry S. Whiting II.

**Date:**
March 11, 2022

**Start Time:**
1:10 pm

**End Time:**
2:05 pm

**Location:**
Virtual

**Discussion:**

NTU IRB are not approving, we are merely reviewing to continue to the next step of Navajo Nation approval.

Dr. Sage discussed his background in the military and in North Dakota. Studied role of chapter house president and vice president. Did a formal economy study looking at producers and consumers at flea markets on the Reservation. Presently, he was asked to be the PI for this proposal. He already submitted this to the Navajo Nation IRB.

The aim of this research project is to answer the questions below. It is our hope that these findings will be able to contribute to ongoing and emergent policy processes around energy and landscape planning.

Dr. Sage presented his project for support of his research. This project ultimately investigates changes to the landscape related to modes of energy production in the region across time. Amid coal plant closures and dwindling oil and gas production in the region, coupled with growing demands to address climate change, this project also asks: how do Diné people, who have disproportionately borne the impacts of a century of overlapping extractive regimes for coal, uranium, and now oil and gas, envision energy justice into the future?

Benefits of the study include: The results of this study will shed light on how environmental conditions affect the wellbeing of Navajo people in Eastern Agency. From these findings, the research team will be able to make recommendations to mitigate negative impacts to wellbeing and/or improve mental, behavioral, and physical health for Navajo communities. The participants in this study will be adult (aged 18+) community members of Counselor, Torreon, and Ojo Encino Chapters. Dr. Sage will conduct a focus group in each community that will consist of five people in each community. A gas card will be disseminated to encourage participation. Dr. Sage’ will reach out to the Diné Policy Institute and Diné Care will provide funding for the gas card.

**Question:** Discuss where the ownership of data will be held, recording will be placed in a safe place under lock and key in Dr. Sage’s office, for up to three years, then that will be destroyed. The documentation is owned by the Navajo people, currently they do not have a data storage facility. The responsibility goes back to the PI, Dr. Sage, to keep all documents in a safe,
locked area. Once data is analyzed the results will go up for publication. This will be given to the Navajo Nation to improve the policy in New Mexico as well. All the data and documents will be shredded after three years.

*Question:* on what date did the Navajo Nation approve this process? Dr. Sage explained that this has been tabled by the Navajo Nation due to the fact that Dr. Sage is waiting on the NTU process first.

*Question:* How long will data be stored? Three years the responsibility with the data storage will be with Dr. Sage.

*Question:* Will NTU have Intellectual Property rights for this project? Or does it state somewhere IP is assigned to Diné Policy Institute? All data will be housed with the Navajo Nation.

Discussion: The NTU IRB will need to further refine the IRB process. Template letter for approval will be written up, sent to the committee for approval and then given to Dr. Sage.

Motion was voted on, the motion reads: *To provide a support letter for this project.*
Motion passed.

*Next Meeting Date:* Second Friday of every month from 1-2 pm
April 8th from 1-2pm and May 13, 2022

*Adjournment:* 2:05 pm