

ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS COMMITTEE (IRB)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/2015

I. Executive Summary

As of July 30, 2015, 87 research proposals were submitted, with 84 receiving approval from the Human Subjects

- A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

Not applicable.

VIII. Comments.

The steady increase in research at UNA led to the Human Subjects Committee reviewing the largest number of proposals (87) since the HSC was established. It is especially noteworthy that the turnaround time for exempt and expedited proposals was within 1-4 days; with a number of faculty and students complimenting the chair and committee on how quickly their proposals were vetted. However, if the upward trend in submissions continues, it will be necessary to reconsider how the proposals are reviewed, as the preponderance of work on the committee is done solely by the chair. With increased submission levels, we may need to provide a course release to the chair, examine the possibility of hiring a part-time staff member with experience reviewing IRB proposals, or elect College IRB co-chairs to lessen the burden on the HSC chair.