

One question is, have you recently had a foreign influence screening, along with questions regarding their U.S. citizenship. Craig Dawson mentioned utilizing HireRight to expedite the process and spoke on the new policy. There are two separate statutes that are related. A U.S. citizen is not subject to the process unless they have a tie to a foreign country. There is a 120-day gap rule for faculty and staff being re-appointed. For those changing labs who have had a recent successful screening, a repeated screening is not required. New international graduate student hires need a job offer letter to obtain a Visa. The foreign influence screening is required for new international students before a job offer letter can be issued. This conflict is causing issues. Jorge A. Rodriguez, Foreign Influence Compliance Officer, is partnering with USF HR on the process. There are seven countries of concern. Delayed processing for student appointments also arises when students move from Teaching Assistant (TA) to a Research Assistant (RA) position.

Stephanie Wise will try to capture _____ from GEMS and report back. In the meantime, there is guidance on the Compliance and Ethics, Foreign Influence Screening at <https://www.usf.edu/compliance-ethics/foreign-influence/index.aspx>. Early identification is key in streamlining the process. Stephanie Wise noted that HR is available to assist whenever needed. _____ to show the hiring process when screening is needed and when it is not.

The Research Council provided concrete examples of barriers to research and requested a clearer definition of "outside activity," beyond that which is described in the statutes. Guests will be invited to the January 22, 2024, to respond to questions raised today.

Kelli Barr, Associate Professor in the College of Public Health, stated that IRB reviews and approvals have been delayed. The process is not clear. Need to address bottlenecks. Jason Ramage, Director for USF Research Integrity Compliance, clarified the process and noted that delays are at the college level, and that IRB staff review IRB application within a day. The office does track turnaround times. Protocols reviewed by the full IRB committee (higher risk studies) take 20 days from pre-review to final determination. Studies that meet one or more of the eight eligible categories for exemption take on average 21 days. Expedited protocols (low-risk studies that do not qualify for an exemption) are reviewed and approved in about 11 days. Occasionally, a review may take longer if it is a complex study, or if we are waiting on responses/inputs from researchers. In some cases, the researcher may not have completed the submission process in ARC so I would first encourage researchers to be sure they have done so. The three IRBs meets once per month; the schedule of meetings can be viewed [here](#).

Post-Award, subcontracts are not being approved in a timely manner. Many colleges echo these concerns. John Johnson serves on the Core Team for the Huron research grant management system implementation. The Huron Grants and Agreements system is expected to significantly improve transparency and enable PIs to check on their grant status. O