Process of Conducting Research on the Hopi Reservation, Arizona

Tribe or Nation: The Hopi Tribe
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Tribal Priorities
The Hopi Tribe is interested in research that benefits the Hopi community and supports the work of the Hopi Tribal departments and programs. It is also wanting tribal employees to be able participate where possible and to learn from the research being conducted in order to improve the institutional capacity of the Hopi Tribe for future projects.

The program has work required of it by tribal priorities and contracts. It does not have staff that can always be available to act as guides or interpreters for projects. It can direct interested parties to resources that may be available for a fee or not.

Institutional Review Board Permission Protocol
For researchers from the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona State University, there are requirements that their Institutional Review Boards have specific to any research to be done on Native American Reservations or Nations. At the University of Arizona, Native American Studies Program reviews the research proposal. The Anthropology Department at Northern Arizona University reviews the research proposals from faculty and students of that university. Arizona State University requires a letter of tribal to be submitted with the application to their IRB. The American Indian Advocate on the IRB reviews any research involving Native Americans.

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office Protocol
The Hopi Tribe has an established Research Protocol Proposal outline that can be found at http://www.nau.edu/~hcpo-p/hcpo/index.html. The Cultural Preservation Office (CPO) does not have the ability to support research proposals with little lead time. It is suggested that a researcher allow one to two months. Following the protocol helps facilitate the review of the proposal by the office.

On receiving a proposal, the Director of CPO will route the proposal to an assistant for review, or decide to have it presented to the Cultural Resources Advisor Task Team (CRATT) for review. At that time a recommendation will be made to the Director to approve the proposal or not. CRATT may request changes to the research protocol before approving. If the proposal goes the assistant researcher, he/she will make a recommendation to the Director for approval, changes and additional discussions with the Primary Investigator, or to disapprove the proposal.

Currently, all proposals do come to the CPO. The Hopi Tribe is working to develop a formal Institutional Review Board capacity to review health related research requests. Health related research proposals are being sent to the Hopi Tribal Council as resolutions for approval.

Informed Consent
The CPO requires informed consent for any research involving human subjects. In some cases this might mean a Hopi language translator is to available in order to be able to explain clearly in Hopi to people participating in the research what exactly the research entails and what their rights are.
The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

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