



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
NEUMANN UNIVERSITY
ONE NEUMANN DRIVE, ASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19014

July 9, 2014

Dear SEPCHE IRB/RERB Director:

I am writing to you and your colleagues to respectfully request an exemption from full IRB review for a Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) collaborative faculty development initiative funded by the Teagle Foundation and entitled "Building Faculty Capacity for 21st Century Teaching."

We believe that the research resulting from this project, described below, is exempt from full IRB review and approval procedures under Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Public Welfare), Part 46 (Protection of Human Subjects) as administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). Please see §46.101 (b) (1) (2) (3) which exempts research "conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices..."

SEPCHE received a planning grant of \$150,000 to test metacognitive interventions focused on the application of current research in cognitive science to pedagogy development. The proposal calls for faculty to test interventions that support shifts in instruction toward those that enable 21st century competency development. A copy of the original grant proposal is attached for your review.

This effort is designed to focus on teacher metacognition. Investigation will therefore be limited to the impact of metacognitive approaches on faculty. Results will inform the development of a scalable, cost-effective professional development model. A 10-week implementation period has been established from September through December 2014 for faculty to develop and test discrete pieces of such a model and potential interventions by and with faculty.

We believe that this project will help SEPCHE faculty become more aware of the importance of employing metacognitive approaches in their professional practice. We believe that this work will result in a model professional development program in Higher Education.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard O'Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Gerard O'Sullivan, Ph.D.,
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and SEPCHE Project Director

Attachment: Proposal