

EGSC Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2018

The members of the EGSC Institutional Review Board met through a teleconference at 11 am on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Participating in the discussion were Deborah Lee, Florenta Segal and Mr. David Gribbin, IRB chair. James Brady and Suella McCrimmon were absent.

David Gribbin open the meeting by referring to an IRB application that was submitted by David Strickland that would include surveys of students in his first-year seminar as part of a master's thesis. The purpose of the study on which the thesis is based is to compare program outcomes under two class size conditions: 1) a very large class size of 80 or more students and 2) a smaller than typical class size of 15 or fewer students. Using a pre/post-test format, the surveys would collect information about five assessment outcomes, including 1) making connections, 2) high expectations and aspirations, 3) clear academic plan and pathway, 4) engaged learning and 5) academic support network.

In addition to David Strickland's application, David Gribbin referred to the University of Georgia IRB Guidelines for determining what projects fall under an IRB's purview. Professor Segal said that Mr. Strickland research needs to be approved by the EGSC IRB because, as Mr. Strickland indicates in his application, the results of his study would be shared through publication and presentations at academic conferences, thus becoming generalizable knowledge, one of the criteria for UGA's determination that a study requires IRB approval. Professor Lee agreed with Professor Segal. David Gribbin asked if the study might be exempt from IRB oversight because the study included course-related activities designed specifically for educational or teaching purposes, an exemption criterion of the UGA Guidelines. Both Professor Segal and Professor Lee thought that generalizable knowledge was the governing criterion, so that Mr. Strickland's study should be reviewed by the EGSC IRB.

After further discussion of David Strickland's IRB application, everyone agreed that Mr. Strickland's application was thorough and should be approved.

Minutes submitted by David Gribbin