

To: the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee

From:

Date: Friday, April 08, 2016

Re: Ethics Review

Predictors of Students' Academic Performance in Large Lecture-style classroom settings: A retrospective analysis

Thank you for reviewing the above project. I have attempted to address the concerns of the committee, as detailed below.

1. The committee would like to know if all the participants are past students of the instructor. If so:
 - a) Please advise if it is possible for a third party to be assigned to contact the students for participation (at least to receive the email replies from the students who can then be assigned a code number that corresponds to their student number from the classes).

Response: Yes, all the potential participants are past students of the instructor. A third party (contact information here) has agreed to contact the students via a blind carbon copy email to the class for participation in the study, and to receive any email replies from the students. Please see the revised Appendix B (Messages to the students about the study). The third party will also assign a code number to all students who wish to participate in the study, and the code number will correspond to their student number from the classes.

2. On the Online Consent form, the following should be included/ revised:
 - a. Indicate that confidentiality will be provided to the fullest extent possible by law.
 - b. Clearly indicate that the participant's name will not appear in any report or publications of the research.
 - c. Specify how the data will be securely stored, for how long and what will happen to the data after the retention period.
 - d. Indicate: "This research has received ethics review and approval by the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee, York University's Ethics Review Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines."

Response: The modifications listed above were made to the online consent form that can be found at (website address inserted here), as well as the revised Appendix A (contents of the online consent form).