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May 19, 2018

MEMO

To: Southern Region's Multistate Research Committee (MRC)

From: Dr. Sherry L. Larkin
Associate Dean for Research University of Florida
Administrative Advisor, S_temp 1078

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherry L. Larkin'.

Re: Response to MRC Recommendations and Comments

At this time, the proposed Multistate project S_temp1078 (*Cognitive Influence on Teaching, Learning, and Decision-Making around Critical Agricultural and Natural Resource Issues*), has received three supportive peer reviews (Appendix G), and three comprehensive evaluations from MRC members that all recommended approval without change (Appendix H). All six reviews and evaluations are available in NIMSS. A total of 17 participants have already been added and their planned contributions in research and extension by topic area (KA, SOI, and FOS) are also identified in NIMSS. An additional three researchers are in the process of being approved (Dr. Blackburn, LSU; Dr. Cantrell, UF; and Dr. Thompson, FAMU).

The Chair of the MRC recommended that approval be deferred and offered the following comments:

The project should explain how best practices in education and information dissemination will be determined. As someone who is not involved in the social sciences, you must connect the dots between data collection, analysis and development of Best Practices for me. It is not clear how the methods will be used to develop Best Practices. Also, how will other scientists join this project if they have something to offer? Will the project seek new participants, and how?

In response to these three questions and following a final review of the narrative, the project has been edited in general and specifically to provide examples of the types of projects and outputs that would encompass 'best practices' (i.e., communications that are sensitive to, and compatible with, a suite of socio-cultural, -economic, and -demographic characteristics of individuals that affect learning styles that produce behavioral change on a regional and national scale). Other scientists can join by following the guidelines provided by their SAES. Email invitations will be sent to all members of the two related Multistate projects; however, note that participation in S_temp1078 already exceeds that of all the related Multistate projects summarized in the proposal, which is indicative of the strong demand for this project among scholars in the Agricultural Education and Communication field.

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