Thank you for reviewing our IRB proposal and offering suggestions for revision. We have addressed all concerns presented by the reviewers. Our explanations are offered below.

Reviewer A:

*1. The researchers affiliation needs to be stated in the first paragraph. Additionally, another form of contact information (perhaps email) other than telephone should be given.*

We have provided email along with phone number, and provided our university affiliation in the first paragraph.  
  
*2. Please refer to the project as "research" and not as a "study" consistently throughout the consent form.*

The word “study” was changed to “research” throughout.  
  
*3. Please define "relational grace" early in the consent form. I believe this information is needed in order to sufficiently understand the purpose of the project.* In point #2, we added an expanded definition of relational grace to help clarify the purpose of the project.

*4. Explain why or how the couple was selected as possible participants.*

In point #1, we added an introductory statement describing why they are being asked to participate.

5. *Because the survey questions concern the participants marriage/relationship the questions might be considered by some to be of a sensitive nature. Therefore, it is necessary to provide them with an example question from the GRACE on the consent form.*

An example of an item from GRACE was included in point #3.  
  
*6. Punctuation error in point 1 of the consent form*

The error was deleted.  
*7. Please state in the consent form that, "A summary of the findings will be provided to the participants upon completion of the research, upon request."*

This was added to point #5.  
  
*8. Please make it clear if the participants will ever be told their partners answers.*

It was clarified in point #1 that a participant could choose to share with his or her partner after submitting the survey, but that the researchers would not share answers with the partner at any point.  
*9. Please provide a blank for the researcher to sign and date the consent form.*

Blank was provided at the bottom with researcher’s contact information.

Reviewer B (comments dissimilar to Reviewer A):

1. The IRB# was added to the consent form, along with the title of the project.
2. *“ Question: Will each participant receive a copy of the consent form?”*

Yes, each participant will receive a copy to sign and return and a copy to keep.

1. *IRB PROPOSAL: Expand your explanation on how confidentiality will be honored, how the responses will be kept/protected, and how long the results will be kept.*

Email or mailing address information will be included on the participant’s consent form, but no names or other identifying information will be asked for on the survey. Thus an individual’s consent form cannot be linked to a specific set of survey responses. Electronic survey responses will be kept on a secure server, and mailed hardcopy surveys will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office of a principle researcher. Data will be analyzed by the principle investigators and their research assistants. Upon completion of analysis and compilation of results, survey data will be destroyed.

Thank you again for reviewing our proposal. Please let us know if any more revisions need to be made or if further clarification is required.

Shawn Patrick

John Beckenbach