THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to Make Payment for Housing (University of Michigan Employee Sharon VanRiper, House Owner)

Background:

The University of Michigan’s Center for Theoretical Physics wishes to make payment for the rental of the house of Sharon VanRiper for a visiting professor. Sharon VanRiper’s house was chosen because of its amenities, convenient location, and reasonable price.

The proposed purchase falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Sharon VanRiper is a University employee and is a party to the agreement by virtue of her position as Owner of the house. However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.

b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.

c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:

i) The name of each party involved in the contract.

ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.

iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Center for Theoretical Physics, and Sharon VanRiper.

ii) The service provided is house rental for 22 nights in the amount of $1,200.00.

iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that Sharon VanRiper, a University of Michigan employee, is Owner of the house.

Sharon VanRiper has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest, and her formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable under the Medical School’s or OVPR’s Conflict of Interest Committee’s procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the payment between the University of Michigan and Sharon VanRiper, subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School’s or OVPR’s Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

September, 2005