

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
December 19, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

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

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with the Institute for Social and  
Environmental Research Nepal (University of Michigan Employee, Dr. Dirgha  
Jibi Ghimire, Member of the Board of Directors)

Background:

The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (“ISR”) seeks approval to transact with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research Nepal (“ISER-N”). During the course of the year, undergraduate students and faculty are awarded internal awards to conduct research studies with ISER-N facilities currently being leased by the University. The department is requesting approval to cover research expenses such as data collection activities, paying personnel as it relates to the project, ground transportation and other expenses specific to each funded internal project.

ISER-N was selected because they are the only research organization in the Chitwan Valley working on Social Science research topics. As such, they understand the language and culture and have also collected related data since 1994.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire is a University employee as a Research Associate Scientist in the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research and would be party to the agreement as a Member of the Board of Directors of ISER-N.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements 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 Institute for Social Research and ISER-N.
- ii) The agreement is to cover research expenses such as data collection activities, paying personnel as it relates to the project, ground transportation and other expenses specific to each funded internal project. The total cost of these expenses is expected to be approximately \$25,000.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire, is a Member of the Board of Directors of ISER-N.

Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire has met state law requirements with disclosure of his pecuniary interest and 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 agreement between the University of Michigan and ISER-N 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

December 2013