

**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 purchase from Primary Sources Uncharted Americana (University of Michigan Employee, Robin Beck, Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan William L. Clements Library seeks approval to purchase from Primary Sources Uncharted Americana two rare 19th-century American Books, titled The Child's Grammar, or English Grammar Illustrated and Venus in Boston: A Romance of City Life.

The proposed purchase falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Robin Beck is employed by the University as Professor of Anthropology with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and would be a party to the purchase as owner of Primary Sources Uncharted Americana.

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 William L. Clements Library and Primary Sources Uncharted Americana.
- ii) The transaction is for two rare 19th-century American Books for a one-time transaction at a cost not to exceed \$6,750. Primary Sources Uncharted Americana will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Robin Beck, is owner of Primary Sources Uncharted Americana.

Robin Beck has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Robin Beck under the William L. Clements Library or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the purchase between the University of Michigan and Primary Sources Uncharted Americana subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Robin Beck or the William L. Clements Library or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Hewlett III  
Interim Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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