

**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 enter into an agreement with Mynerva, Inc. (University of Michigan Employees, Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi, Co-founder, Partner, Owner, and Stockholder and Travis DePrato, Director, Owner, and Stockholder).

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering seeks approval to enter into an agreement with Mynerva, Inc. for E-interactive computational textbooks.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi is a University employee as an Associate Professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and would be party to the contract as co-founder, partner, owner, and stockholder of Mynerva, Inc., and Travis DePrato is a University employee as an Experiential Learning Software Architect with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and would be party to the contract as director, owner, and stockholder of Mynerva, Inc.

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 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mynerva, Inc.
- ii) The agreement is for a duration of two years at a total cost not to exceed \$1,200,000. Mynerva, Inc. will be supplying all 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 employees, Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi is co-founder, partner, owner, and stockholder; and Travis DePrato is director, owner and stockholder of Mynerva, Inc.

Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi and Travis DePrato have met state law requirements with the disclosure of their pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisors of Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi and Travis DePrato, 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 Mynerva, Inc. subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of Rajesh Rao Nadakuditi and Travis DePrato or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Smith
Interim Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

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