

**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 a contract with Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health (University of Michigan Employee, Michael Rubyan, Partner).

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Health Management and Policy seeks approval to enter into a contract with Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health to provide the research team with a specialized web-based responsive platform and video content to facilitate asynchronous, remote delivery of a behavior change intervention for surgeons.

The University of Michigan Department of Surgery seeks approval to enter into a contract with Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health to develop the LESS (Less Extensive Surgery by Surgeons), a multi-level intervention targeting known surgeon- and practice-level drivers of total thyroidectomy overuse to improve patient outcomes that will deliver modular, engaging training in an online platform.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute Michael Rubyan is employed by the University as Clinical Assistant Professor with Health Management and Policy and would be a party to the contract as a partner of Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health.

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.

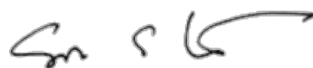
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Health Management and Policy and the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Department of Surgery and Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health.
- ii) The contract for the Department of Health Management and Policy is for two years at a total cost not to exceed \$547,000. The contract for the Department of Surgery is for four years at a total cost not to exceed \$150,000. Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health 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, Michael Rubyan, is a partner of Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health.

Michael Rubyan 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 Michael Rubyan under either the Department of Health Management & Policy and Department of Surgery or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and Honey Locust Productions LLC dba Honey Locust Health subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Michael Rubyan or that either the Department of Health Management & Policy and Department of Surgery or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

May 2025