

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

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

#### **Action Requested: Authorization for the university to transact with Fastflo (University of Michigan Employee, Zannah Baker, Owner)**

#### **Background:**

The University of Michigan Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Engineering seeks approval to transact with Fastflo to provide direct funding to support their business activities through the stages of Idea, Invention, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

The proposed transaction falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute, as Zannah Baker is employed by the University as a part-time Library Assistant with the Law School and would be a party to the transaction as owner of Fastflo.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - a) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - b) 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.
  - c) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (3) above:

- a) The parties to the transaction are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its College of Engineering and Fastflo.
- b) The transaction is for a total cost not to exceed \$25,000. Fastflo will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this transaction. The remaining base terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar transactions entered into by the Regents.
- c) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Zannah Baker, is the owner of Fastflo.

Zannah Baker has 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 supervisor of Zannah Baker under the College of Engineering or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

**We recommend** that the Board of Regents approve the transaction between the University of Michigan and Fastflo, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Zannah Baker or the Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Engineering 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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