

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 contract with Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor) (University of Michigan Employee, William Tseten Dorjé Soergel, Treasurer)

Background:

The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts – Department of Asian Languages and Cultures seeks approval to contract with Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor) for housing at a local Buddhist center for a visiting guest.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute, as William Tseten Dorjé Soergel is employed by the University as a Lecturer I with the Classical Studies department and would be a party to the contract as the treasurer of the board of the local Tibetan Buddhist center of Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor).

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 contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts – Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor).
- b) The contract is for 34 days at a total cost of \$1,200. Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor) 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.
- c) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, William Tsteten Dorjé Soergel, is treasurer of Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor).

William Tsteten Dorjé Soergel 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 William Tsteten Dorjé Soergel under the College of Literature, Science and Arts – Department of Asian Languages 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 Karma Thegsum Choling (Ann Arbor), subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of William Tseten Dorjé Soergel or the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts – Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, 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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