## 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 transact with Joel L. Cressman (University of

Michigan Employee, Joel L. Cressman, Owner and Artist)

## Background:

The University of Michigan Residential College seeks approval to purchase a piece of artwork from Joel L. Cressman to be installed on the waiting room wall of the administrative wing of East Quad. The department chose Joel L. Cressman because they are familiar with his work and want to display artwork that was produced by faculty with a long history of teaching at East Quad.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Joel L. Cressman is a University employee as Professor of Art at the Residential College and would be party to the agreement as the Owner and Artist.

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 Residential College and Joel L. Cressman.
- ii) The agreement is to purchase a piece of artwork from Joel L. Cressman to be installed on the waiting room wall of the administrative wing of East Quad, for a total cost of \$2,800.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Joel L. Cressman is the Owner and Artist.

Joel L. Cressman 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 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 Joel L. Cressman subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

June 2014