## 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 make a Payment to Accuri Cytometers, Inc. (University of Michigan Employees Thomas Kinnear, Board of Directors and

Stockholder, and Steve Skerlos, Co-Founder and Stockholder)

## Background:

The University of Michigan Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Ross School of Business ("ZLI") seeks approval to subsidize a Marcel Gani Internship ("MGI") at Accuri Cytometers, Inc. ("Accuri"). Accuri manufactures and sells measurement devices of microscopic particles in fluid. The MGI program provides matching funds to assist small businesses in paying the salaries of MBA student interns. ZLI selected Accuri for participation in the MGI program based on specialized criteria such as need and quality of internship opportunity.

The proposed payment falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Thomas Kinnear and Steve Skerlos are University employees and would be a party to the contract as stockholders and members of Accuri. 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 Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Ross School of Business ("ZLI") and Accuri Cytometers, Inc. ("Accuri").

- ii) The payment to Accuri of \$7,800 is to subsidize 50% of the total salary of \$15,600 for a 12 week internship paid directly by Accuri to MBA student Patrick Walsh.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that Thomas Kinnear, University of Michigan employee as Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies and Marketing in the Ross School of Business and Steve Skerlos, University of Michigan employee as Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering, are members of Accuri.

Thomas Kinnear and Steve Skerlos 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 under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

<u>We recommend</u> that the Board of Regents approve the payment between the University of Michigan and Accuri, subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted

Limothy P. Slottow

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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