

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
September 18, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

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

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to Purchase from Twila Tardif (University of  
Michigan Employee Twila Tardif, Individual)

Background:

The University of Michigan Center for Human Growth and Development (CHGD) seeks approval to purchase books from Twila Tardif for distribution to peer researchers. The proceeds from sales of Ms. Tardif's book will first be used to reimburse CHGD for the purchase and then fund future research. Ms. Tardif is a uniquely qualified expert in her field of research and CHGD selected this book because of its value as a comprehensive reference.

The proposed purchase falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Twila Tardif is a University employee and would be a party to the purchase as the recipient of payment for goods. However, the Statute allows the University to make such payments 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 Center for Human Growth and Development and Twila Tardif.

- ii) The purchase is 1,000 copies of the book *User's Guide and Manual for the Chinese Communicative Development Inventories (English Edition)*, co-authored by Ms. Tardif. The books will be purchased at cost for \$5,400 plus shipping and handling.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that Twila Tardif, University of Michigan employee as a Research Professor for the Center for Human Growth and Development, will receive payment as an individual.

Twila Tardif has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable under the Medical School's or OVP's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the payment by the University of Michigan to Twila Tardif subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVP's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Slottow  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

September 2008