

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Subcontract Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Peace Research Institute Oslo

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form which then triggered a review by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed agreement (“Agreement”) falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Professor Ragnhild Nordaas is an employee of the University of Michigan (“University”), and is a member of the Board of Directors and an employee of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (“PRIO”). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the Board of Regents (“Regents”) of the University of Michigan and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote.

Background:

Dr. Ragnhild Nordaas, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, is a member of the Board of Directors and an employee (20% appointment) of PRIO (the “Company”). The Company wishes to fund a Research Council of Norway (prime) project entitled “Dynamics of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” (ORSP #17-PAF07537) in the Department of Political Science under the direction of Dr. Nordaas. In addition, Dr. Nordaas will be funded by this project at PRIO for her 20% capacity as a PRIO employee. The purpose of this project is to develop and utilize evidence-based research methodology and resulting data to assess why sexual violence occurs during conflict and explore measures for reducing or eliminating it.

Agreement Terms:

The terms of the Agreement conform to University policy. The period of performance for the project is approximately four (4) years. The amount of funding support will not exceed \$442,083. Since research projects are often amended, this agreement includes a provision for changes in time and scope. University procedures for approval of these changes will be followed and additional conflict of interest review will be done as appropriate.

Impact of the Agreement:

The Agreement will support an effort by Dr. Nordaas to use her expertise and University laboratory, as well as other University resources and personnel, to develop methodologies to identify factors contributing to sexual violence in conflict situations and explore approaches to reduce or eliminate such events.

Recommendations:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the UMOR Conflict of Interest Committee. In light of this disclosure and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with standard University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University's entering into this Agreement with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Jack Hu  
Vice President for Research

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