

**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 Chosen Consulting LLC  
(University of Michigan Employee, Kristen Surla, Partner).

Background:

The University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability Student Center seeks approval to transact with Chosen Consulting LLC for developing and delivering a workshop.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Kristen Surla is a University employee as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Recruitment Training Specialist with the School for Environment and Sustainability and would be party to the contract as partner of Chosen Consulting LLC.

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 School for Environment and Sustainability Student Center and Chosen Consulting LLC.
- ii) The agreement is for a duration of two months at a total cost not to exceed \$1,050. Chosen Consulting LLC will be supplying all 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.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Kristen Surla, is partner of Chosen Consulting LLC.

Kristen Surla 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 by the supervisor of Kristen Surla, 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 Chosen Consulting LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Kristen Surla or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

September 2022