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 enter into an agreement with Garrett’s Space (University of Michigan Employees, Brandon Bond, Jamie Abelson, Lindsay Bornheimer, Robert Adams, Directors; Julie Halpert, Director, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer).

**Background:**

The University of Michigan Office of the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs seeks approval to enter into an agreement with Garrett’s Space for sponsorship.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Brandon Bond is a University employee as Mental Health and Well-Being Student Advocate with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and would be party to the contract as director of Garrett’s Space; Jamie Abelson is a University employee as Program Manager with the Curtis Center for Health Equity Research and Training and would be party to the contract as director of Garrett’s Space; Julie Halpert is a University employee as Lecturer with the Department of Program in the Environment and would be party to the contract as director, co-founder, and chief operating officer of Garrett’s Space; Lindsay Bornheimer is a University employee as Associate Professor with the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry and would be party to the contract as director of Garrett’s Space; and Robert Adams is a University employee as Associate Professor of Architecture with the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and would be party to the contract as director of Garrett’s Space.

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 Office of the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Garrett’s Space.

ii) The agreement is for a one time fee at a total cost not to exceed $1,000. Garrett’s Space 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 employees Brandon Bond, Jamie Abelson, Lindsay Bornheimer, and Robert Adams are directors; and Julie Halpert is director, co-founder, and chief operating officer of Garrett’s Space.

Brandon Bond, Jamie Abelson, Julie Halpert, Lindsay Bornheimer, and Robert Adams 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 by the supervisors of Brandon Bond, Jamie Abelson, Julie Halpert, Lindsay Bornheimer, and Robert Adams, 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 Garrett’s Space subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of Brandon Bond, Jamie Abelson, Julie Halpert, Lindsay Bornheimer, and Robert Adams 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

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