

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan  
and the Institute for Social and Environmental Research

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into the Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the Proposal Approval Form. This then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed by the Committee and agreed to by the parties involved.

This proposed research Agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Dirgha Ghimire is an employee of the University of Michigan and is Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. Arland Thornton, Director and Research Professor, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the PI on the award from National Institutes of Health. Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the Co-PI on the award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Ghimire is also the Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). The NIH award includes a portion of survey work that will be done by ISER.

Agreement Terms:

The grant from NIH includes a fee for service contract with ISER in the amount of \$125,000; \$95,000 in Year 1 and \$30,000 in Year 2. The terms of the proposed Agreement are acceptable and conform to University policy. The period of performance is August 2010 through May 2012.

Impact of the Agreement:

The work with ISER will allow the University to meet the Specific Aims originally submitted and approved by the National Institutes of Health.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University entering into this Agreement with the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

November 2010