Approved by the Regents November 20, 2014

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 Gurmentor, Inc.

(University of Michigan Employees, John Hinckley and Jasprit Singh, Director

and Stockholder, respectively)

Background:

The University of Michigan School of Natural Resources seeks approval to purchase application development and programming from Gurmentor, Inc. ("Gurmentor") for a research project. The agreement is for development and user support of the Nature Pill application for iPhone and Android platforms.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as John Hinckley is a University employee as an Adjunct Research Scientist and Jasprit Singh is a University employee as Professor both with Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the College of Engineering and would be parties to the contract as Director and Stockholder, respectively, of Gurmentor.

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 of Natural Resources and Gurmentor.
- ii) The agreement is for development and user support of the Nature Pill application for iPhone and Android platforms at a total cost of \$8,000.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employees, John Hinckley and Jasprit Singh are Director and Stockholder, respectively, of Gurmentor.

John Hinckley and Jasprit Singh 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 under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

<u>We recommend</u> that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Gurmentor subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas L. Strong

Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

November 2014