Approved by the Regents
November 20, 2025

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 a contract with Positivius LLC dba Riverbank Consulting Group (University of Michigan Employee, Christopher White, Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan School of Kinesiology seeks approval to enter into a contract for consulting services with Positivius LLC dba Riverbank Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Christopher White is employed by the University as a Lecturer with Stephen M. Ross School of Business and would be party to the contract as owner of Riverbank Consulting Group.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such contracts 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 Kinesiology and Riverbank Consulting Group.

ii) The contract is for six months of consulting services at a cost of $160,500. Riverbank Consulting Group will supply all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical of 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 Christopher White owns Riverbank Consulting Group.

Christopher White has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Christopher White under the School of Kinesiology 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 contract between the University of Michigan and Riverbank Consulting Group subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Christopher White or the School of Kinesiology or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Hewlett III
Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

November 2025