The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

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 Michigan Life Sciences Engineering and Advising and Development Consulting Group (dba miLEAD Consulting Group) (University of Michigan Employee, Max Keller, President, Director; Kira Holton, Director; Yuezhong Zhang, Director; Nina Zhang, Director; Madeline Sykes, Director; Jolie Kan, Director. VP Client Services; Julia Ugras, Director, VP of Internal Operations; Adele Correia, Director)

Background:

The University of Michigan Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences seeks approval to enter into a contract with Michigan Life Sciences Engineering and Advising and Development Consulting Group (dba miLEAD Consulting Group) for consulting services.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Max Keller is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Pathology Department and would be a party to the contract as President and Director of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Nina Zhang is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and would be a party to the contract as Director of Membership of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Yuezhong Zhang is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and would be a party to the contract as Director of Finance of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Jolie Kan is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Chemistry Department and would be a party to the contract as Director and VP of Client Services of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Adele Correia is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Cell and Molecular Department and would be a party to the contract as Director of Human Resources of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Julia Ugras is employed by the University as a PhD Student with the Molecular and Integrative Physiology Department and would be a party to the contract as Director and Vice President of Internal Operations of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Kira Holton is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Biological Chemistry Department and would be a party to the contract as Director of Marketing and Web Services of miLEAD Consulting Group.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Madeline Sykes is employed by the University as a Graduate Student Research Assistant with the Department of Pathology and would be a party to the contract as Director of Professional Development of miLEAD Consulting Group.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

1) 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.
2) 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.
3) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
    a) The name of each party involved in the contract.
    b) 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.
    c) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (3) above:

a) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and miLEAD Consulting Group.
b) The contract is for research with clinicians and clinical research coordinators to gage adoption pathways for an eyedrop adherence device for the duration of eight weeks at a total cost of $6,100. miLEAD Consulting Group will supply 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.
c) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Max Keller is President and Director of miLEAD Consulting Group; Nina Zhang is Director of Membership of miLEAD Consulting Group; Yuezhong Zhang is Director of Finance of miLEAD Consulting Group; Jolie Kan is Director and VP of Client Services of miLEAD Consulting Group; Adele Correia is Director of Human Resources of miLEAD Consulting Group; Julia Ugras is Director and Vice President of Internal Operations of miLEAD Consulting Group; Kira Holton is Director of Marketing and Web Services of miLEAD Consulting Group and Madeline Sykes Director of Professional Development of miLEAD Consulting Group.

Max Keller; Nina Zhang; Yuezhong Zhang; Jolie Kan; Adele Correia; Julia Ugras; Kira Holton and Madeline Sykes 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 supervisor of Max Keller; Nina Zhang; Yuezhong Zhang; Jolie Kan; Adele Correia; Julia Ugras; Kira Holton and Madeline Sykes under the Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and miLEAD Consulting Group, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Max Keller; Nina Zhang; Yuezhong Zhang; Jolie Kan; Adele Correia; Julia Ugras; Kira Holton and Madeline Sykes or the Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



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

November 2026