International Engagement

Conflicts of Interest in Research and Commitment

Town Hall hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Research

October 28, 2020
Agenda

Conflict of Interest/Commitment – Jan Waterhouse
  • Policy overview
  • What to disclose
Conflict of Interest in Research – Martha Hedberg
  • What to disclose
  • What does management look like

eCOI Disclosure System

Questions will be taken in the Q&A window for later response
Conflict of Commitment
Conflict of Interest in the Workplace

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Conflict of Commitment

Faculty members are encouraged to actively participate in external activities but must also ensure that the activities do not compromise their ability to fulfill university duties.

In general, the time allotted to external activities in lieu of university obligations...should not exceed nine business days per academic term (fall, spring, summer terms)...

*OM II Community Policies Chapter 18 Conflicts of Commitment and Interest*
Conflict of Commitment: Disclosures

Must be disclosed:
- Outside professional activities related to UI role
  - Consulting in your area of expertise for a non-UI entity
  - Owning a business providing services related to your area of expertise
- External activities not related to UI role requiring substantial time commitment, or that could compromise professional judgment
  - Volunteering for a community organization 20 hours/week
  - Owning a business that wants to provide services to UI
- Number of business days spent on outside activity

Management Plan addresses:
- time commitment
- use of UI resources
- right of first refusal for business opportunities
Conflict of Commitment: Disclosures

Need not be disclosed – Academic Activities*:

• Presenting at professional conferences
• Professional review board
• Peer review body
• Editor/Referee for professional journals
• Site visits for research/accreditation
• Writing/producing academic books, articles, software, creative works
• UI public engagement

*Activities that are:

• Expected as part of the faculty role, and
• Considered in employment decisions (e.g., salary, P&T)
Conflict of Interest in the Workplace

A conflict exists whenever:

• financial interests or other personal considerations
• outside of the University
• have the possibility (either in actuality or in appearance) of
• compromising a faculty or staff member's professional judgment in teaching, research, business decision-making.

*OM II Community Policies Chapter 18 Conflicts of Commitment and Interest
Conflict of Interest in the Workplace

Prohibited Activities include:

• Using UI property/resources for personal financial gain
• Pursuing a business opportunity without giving UI right of first refusal
• Using UI letterhead for outside activities unrelated to UI
• Using UI position or property to market/advocate for a product unrelated to UI
Conflict of Interest in the Workplace: Disclosures

Should be disclosed:

• Owning a business providing services to UI, when you have decision-making authority
• Immediate family member’s ownership in outside business providing services to UI, when you have influence over decision
• Using products/textbook in the classroom/lab for which you receive royalties
• Teaching a course in which a family member is enrolled
• Hiring students/employees to work in an outside business when you have UI authority over them
• Outside activities that require access/use of UI data/resources

Management plan addresses UI decision-making authority
Conflict of Interest in Employment (Nepotism)

A conflict exists when:

- UI employee with supervisory authority
- Has a personal or outside business relationship
- With another UI employee
- Over whom they have decision-making authority

Relationships include:

- Familial
- Romantic/intimate
- Significant friendship
- Outside business relationship

*OM III Human Resources Policies Chapter 8 Conflicts of Interest in Employment*
Conflict of Interest in Employment (Nepotism): Disclosures

Should be disclosed:

• Hiring employee with whom you have an outside relationship
• Develop relationship with someone under your decision-making authority

Management Plan will address the UI decision-making authority
Conflict of Interest in Employment (Nepotism): Disclosures

Need not be disclosed:
  • Related individuals working in same department, but no supervisory authority between them
To Disclose or Not to Disclose?

Actual or apparent conflict
Err on side of disclosure
Having a conflict is not necessarily a bad thing
Goal is to remove the individual from the conflict situation
• Protects UI interests
• Also protects YOU
Conflict of Interest in Research

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Conflict of Interest in Research

*A conflict exists whenever personal, professional, commercial, or financial interests or activities outside of the University have the possibility (either in actuality or in appearance) of

- interfering with UI employees' ability to fulfill their employment obligations
- compromising a faculty or staff member's professional judgment
- biasing research or compromising, or giving the appearance of compromising, the sound professional judgment of its investigators
- resulting in personal gain for the employee or employee's immediate family, at the expense of the University and/or the state

*OM II Community Policies Chapter 18 Conflicts of Commitment and Interest
Conflict of Interest in Research

The Problem
- Competing interests or commitments
- Influence decision-making
- Can occur unconsciously
- Research/data security issue

The Remedy
- Disclosure to your institution
  - Federal law
  - Required by many other research sponsors
  - Transparency is ALWAYS GOOD
Conflict of Interest in Research - Disclosure

External personal compensation
  • Any payments for consulting, advisory boards, employment, etc.
  • Licensing or royalty income from intellectual property
  • Publishing royalties
  • Talent/recruitment programs
  • Payments for teaching, lecturing, etc. at other institutions

Foreign and domestic entities
Conflict of Interest in Research - Disclosure

Publicly traded stocks (NASDAQ, NYSE, Pink Sheets, etc.)
- Stocks in which you directly control the purchases and sales
  - Not TIAA CREF, IPERS, or mutual funds
- Stock Options
- Dividends
Conflict of Interest in Research - Disclosure

Other External Commitments (even if they are unpaid)

• External employment/side gig/second job/moonlighting
  • Includes teaching positions, visiting professorships, etc. at other institutions
  • Foreign and domestic
• Service on boards of directors, panels, advisory boards, etc.
• Speaking engagements
• Consulting
• Education presenter/recipient
  • Teaching, lecturing, etc. at other institutions
  • Foreign and domestic
Conflict of Interest in Research - Disclosure

- Family member compensation (spouse and dependent children)
- Sponsored Travel for PHS researchers
COIR Management

Not a bad thing
Most can be managed

Transparency is key
• Disclose to
  • Students
  • Study team members
  • Publications and presentations
  • Informed consent document
• Independent data monitor

PHS requires reporting
How to Disclose eCOI electronic Conflict of Interest
Disclosing – Two Step Process

Annual Certification
- Once/year Jan 1 – Apr 30
- Snapshot in time
- Nepotism question will be here for 2021

Individual Disclosures
- 24/7/365
- Report within 30 days
- Even if you don’t get paid
- Domestic AND foreign
Disclosing
Disclosing

eco.uiowa.edu
eCOI

About eCOI
2020 Disclosure

Add new disclosure report, if applicable.
Disclosing

You indicated that you have financial interests with one or more outside entities. You will complete a report for each of the entities.

Disclosure Report

1. Enter the name of the entity with which you have a financial interest or with which you have engaged in outside professional activities. In the box below, type the first letters of the entity's name until the correct name appears. If the entity is not on the list, you will need to type in the full name of the entity to add it to the database.

   Name

2. Which aspect of your professional role at the University are related to the activities or financial interest with the entity named above? (check all that apply)

   - I use or prescribe products, medical devices or implants, or equipment manufactured and/or distributed by this entity
   - I use the entity's products/services in my teaching or student advising
   - I evaluate and make recommendations regarding the entity's products or services on behalf of the University (not as part of my research)
   - I participate in purchasing or business decisions about this outside entity's products/services in my role
   - I use my expertise/professional knowledge in advising, consulting, product evaluation/development, intellectual property development/management, or in some other way that benefits the entity
   - I assign duties to or employ UI students and/or supervisees in this outside entity
   - Other

3. OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. Did you perform any outside professional activities with the entity listed above in the previous calendar year, or do you plan to perform any such activities in the current calendar year? This refers to professional activities in the same field of expertise as your job at the University. If you doubt, answer as 'no' except when it is a business related to your field of expertise or University responsibilities, you should answer 'yes'.

   ACTIVITIES REQUIRING DISCLOSURE INCLUDE:
   - Any Outside Professional Activities that take place during a business day (i.e., every Monday through Friday during regular business hours and the time on any Saturday, Sunday, or evening when a person is scheduled to work; does not include any University holidays, vacation day, or sick leave)
   - Outside Professional Activities that may interfere or be perceived to interfere with the fulfillment of one's University obligations, but are not limited to using your professional expertise or status of your profession to consult, serving as an expert witness, employment at another institution of higher education, delivering a MOOC for a non-profit entity, and outside professional activities that use University resources in any way

   ACTIVITIES GENERALLY NOT REQUIRING DISCLOSURE INCLUDE:
   - "Academic activities" considered part of your UI duties, such as holding office in or undertaking an editorial office for a scholarly journal or academic press or, serving on a professional review board or peer review bodies, attending or presenting at professional meetings, visiting other sites in connection with appreciation, audits, sponsored project reviews, research, or like activities writing or producing academically related books, articles, software and similar materials, or other creative arts ordinarily considered in decisions relating to the employee's employment status or salary, or University-related public engagement.
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