PROPOSAL: Western Michigan University Conflict of Interest Policy

Background

The University has not had a comprehensive Conflict of Interest Policy. The lack of a uniform policy in this area has led to confusion and unequal consideration of issues that should be defined in a policy. The Office of the General Counsel, in consultation with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, drafted this updated policy.

This Policy will establish a uniform Conflict of Interest, Anti-Nepotism, and Employee Gift Policy for the University. It combines conflict statements that existed in the Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual, the Employee Handbook, and on the Purchasing Department’s webpage. It also adds conflict of interest language specific to contracting and other conflict types, which are required either by the federal government or accrediting bodies. The Policy was developed by researching and incorporating similar policies used by the federal government and other state universities.

In accordance with the University’s Policy Review and Development Policy, the Conflict of Interest Policy was submitted to the University Policy Committee for review.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve the Western Michigan University Conflict of Interest Policy.