

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

April 17, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Action Requested: Authorization to enter into the Agreement

Preamble:

A statutory conflict of interest situation was identified by the Division of Research Development and Administration while reviewing the research agreement which then triggered a review by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. A plan for management of the possible risks associated with the conflict of interest was then developed and approved by this Committee and agreed to by the parties involved in this plan.

This proposed research agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Catherine McLaughlin is an employee of the University of Michigan and holds a part-time position at Mathematica Policy Research (MPR). The law permits such an Agreement provided it is disclosed to the executive officers and approved in advance by a 2/3 vote of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Background:

Dr. Catherine McLaughlin, Professor, Health Management and Policy in the School of Public Health, is the PI on a Prime award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the academic mentor and chair of Ms. Mary Harrington's dissertation committee. Dr. McLaughlin is also a part-time employee of MPR as of June 2008, where she serves as a Sr. Fellow and Director of Health Research and supervises Ms. Harrington. Mary Harrington is Project Manager and Sr. Researcher & Associate Director of Ann Arbor MPR office.

Nature of the Agreement:

This subcontract supports activities related to the Economic Research Initiative on the Uninsured (ERIU), a project in the School of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy, under the direction of Dr. Catherine McLaughlin. The Prime sponsor of this project is the RWJF. The subcontract supports the continued involvement of Ms. Mary Harrington, a UM GSI, who will lead the development of roughly 8-10 three- to four-page interviews with economists on topics related to the uninsured as an employee of MPR.

Terms of the Agreement:

The terms of the proposed Agreement are acceptable and conform to University policy. The period of performance is January 2008 through August 2008.

Impact of the Agreement:

The contract with MPR will allow the University to meet the goals and objectives originally submitted and approved to RWJF.

Recommendation:

This matter has been reviewed and approved by the OVPR Conflict of Interest Review Committee. In light of the disclosure made in this document and our finding that the Agreement was negotiated in conformance with University practices, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University entering into this Agreement with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Forrest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen R. Forrest  
Vice President for Research

April 2008