

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

July 17, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Research Agreement between the University of Michigan and the Institute for Social and Environmental Research

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 Proposal Approval Form, 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.

This proposed research Agreement ("Agreement") falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Dr. Dirgha Ghimire is an employee of the University of Michigan and is Director and a member of the Board of Director's of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research (ISER). 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. Arland Thornton, Director and Research Professor, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the PI on the award from National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center in the Institute for Social Research, is the Co-PI on the award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Ghimire is also the Director and a member of the Board of Director's of ISER. The NIH award includes a portion of survey work that will be done by ISER.

Nature of the Agreement:

This grant from NIH investigates the influence of ideational factors on family life. In recent years scholars have identified many beliefs and values to be important influences on marriage and reproductive behavior, and these ideational factors have become important elements in theories of family and demographic change. The project will investigate the interrelated influence of these ideational factors on both nuptiality and fertility. [They] will also examine how these ideational factors intersect with a wide range of socioeconomic structural factors in influencing marriage, contraceptive use, and childbearing. This research will be conducted in Nepal, which provides a particularly useful

setting for studying ideational influences on nuptiality and fertility.

Terms of the Agreement:

The terms of the proposed Agreement are acceptable and conform to University policy. The period of performance is April 2008 through March 2013. The grant from NIH includes a fee for service contract with ISER in the amount of \$947,330 over the 5 years of the project.

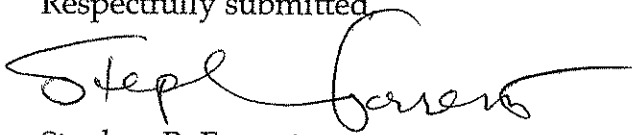
Impact of the Agreement:

The work with ISER will allow the University to meet the Specific Aims originally submitted and approved by the National Institutes of Health.

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 ISER.

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

July 2008