

## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the Conflict of interest policy is to protect the Foundation's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Foundation. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

### **II. Definitions**

1. *Interested Person* - Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with Board-delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
2. *Financial Interest* - A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:
  - a. an ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Foundation has a transaction or arrangement, or
  - b. a compensation arrangement with the Foundation or with any entity or individual with which the Foundation has a transaction or arrangement, or
  - c. a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Foundation is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate Board of Directors (Board) or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

### **III. Procedures**

1. *Duty to Disclose* - In connection with any actual or possible conflicts of interest, an interest person must disclose the existence of his or her financial interest and must be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with Board-delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. *Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists* - After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the Board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. *Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest* - An interested person may make a presentation at the Board or committee meeting, but after such presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest.
  - a. The chairperson of the Board or the committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
  - b. After exercising due diligence, the Board or committee shall determine whether the Foundation can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
  - c. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the Board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Foundation's best interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Foundation and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.
4. *Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy* - If the Board or committee has reasonable cause to believe that a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
  - a. If after hearing the response of the member and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the Board or committee determines that the member has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate action by notifying the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Audit Committee, who shall take appropriate corrective action.

#### **IV. Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the Board and all committee with Board-delegated powers shall contain:

1. The names of the individuals who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the

financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

2. The names of the individuals who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection therewith.

## **V. Acknowledgment Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with Board-delegated powers shall sign a statement which affirms that such person:

1. has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy;
2. has read and understands the policy;
3. has agreed to comply with the policy; and
4. understands that the Foundation is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

## **VI. Annual Reviews**

To ensure that the Foundation operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, an annual review by the Audit Committee will be conducted. The annual review may include the following:

- a. Whether financial transactions, contracts for services, and other arrangements with individuals and organizations conform to written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable payments for goods and services, further the Foundation's charitable purposes and do not result in inurement or impermissible private benefit.

## **VII. Use of Outside Experts**

In conducting the annual review provided for in Article VI, the Audit Committee may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the Committee of its responsibility for ensuring that the annual reviews be conducted where appropriate.

### **VIII. Confidentiality**

It is the policy of Eastern Washington University Foundation that board members of the foundation will not disclose confidential information belonging to, or obtained through their affiliation with Eastern Washington University Foundation to any person, including their relatives, friends, and business and professional associates unless Eastern Washington University Foundation has authorized disclosure. The Foundation shall identify information that is considered confidential

**Annual Conflict of Interest  
Statement of the  
Board of Directors of the Foundation**

Each of the undersigned members of the Board of Directors of Eastern Washington University Foundation states for himself or herself that he or she:

1. has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy;
2. has read and understands the policy;
3. has agreed to comply with the policy; and
4. understands that the Foundation is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Please indicate below your relationship to the EWU Foundation Board of Directors:

Director                       Committee Member (non-director status)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Member Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date