



**STATEMENT OF ETHICAL CONDUCT AND LEADERSHIP INTEGRITY  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
January 30, 2015**

**Preamble**

As Members of the Ohio State University Board of Trustees, Wexner Medical Center Board, and/or various Board of Trustees or Wexner Medical Center Board committees, we serve and are accountable to the Ohio State University and the public. We are honest guardians of the interests of our students, faculty, staff, and patients. Our responsibility is to assure leadership integrity in our actions, commitments and procedures, and to conduct ourselves, at all times, in a manner that fosters public confidence in the integrity of the Board of Trustees, its processes, and its accomplishments, and avoids favoritism, bias, and the appearance of impropriety.

**Duties**

All University Trustees (“Trustee” or collectively “Trustees”), Wexner Medical Center Board Members and Board Committee Members (“Member” or collectively as “Members”) have three primary obligations:

- A duty of care – Trustees and Members shall perform their duties with the care that an ordinary prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances;
- A duty of good faith – Trustees and Members shall take the necessary actions to be informed and exercise appropriate judgment;
- A duty of loyalty – Trustees and Members shall perform their duties in good faith, in a manner the member reasonably believes to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the University.

**Conflicts of Interest**

A “conflict of interest” may arise:

- A) When a reasonable observer, having knowledge of all of the relevant facts and circumstances, would conclude that a Trustee or Member, family member, business associate or related entity has an material interest, financial or otherwise, that is incompatible with the Trustee or Member taking action on a University matter, or such Trustee or Member is using his or her role to achieve personal gain or benefit to family, friends, or business associates;
- B) When the Trustee or Member, or his or her family member or business associate, might derive, a financial or other material benefit from the dissemination or use of confidential information learned in the course of his or her Board service; or

- C) When a Trustee or Member, or their family member, business associate or related entity, has a material existing financial or other interest that impairs his or her independence, objectivity, or ability to discharge his or her duties in serving the University.

### **Commitment of Trustees and Members**

Trustees shall follow the protections of the public found in Chapters 102 and 2921.42 and .43 of the Ohio Revised Code which apply to University Trustees and other public officials (“Ohio Ethics Laws”). In addition, all Trustees and Members shall:

- Serve with integrity and professionalism, in a manner that avoids favoritism, bias, conflicts of interest, and the appearance of impropriety;
- Withdraw from any consideration or action, or any participation with University employees, on any matter as to which the Trustee or Member has a conflict of interest. In doing so, the Trustee or Member shall advise the Secretary of the Board of Trustees that the Trustee or Member will recuse from discussion, consideration and vote on the matter on which conflict of interest exists which shall be reflected in the minutes of that Board;
- Accept no compensation or emolument from a source other than The Ohio State University for service as a Trustee or Member or in relation to any matter before their Board or committee;
- Not use membership on the Board, Wexner Medical Center Board or their committee, or the name of The Ohio State University or its acronym, logos, or other official indicia, in the any manner that suggests impropriety, bias, or unapproved commercial use;
- Not use any authority, advantage, or information conferred upon or provided by virtue of their service as a Trustee or Member for their personal benefit or that of their family or business associates;
- Not use any information not available to the public at large and obtained as a result of their service as a Trustee or Member for personal gain or benefit or for the gain or benefit of others; and
- Preserve the confidentiality of information obtained that is required by law to remain confidential.

### **Procedures Applicable to Trustees and University Employees**

- A) Each Trustee is individually responsible for assuring their personal compliance with Ohio Ethics Laws.
- Annually the Secretary of the Board will circulate the Summary of Substantive Provisions of the Ethics Law and Related Statutes prepared by the Ohio Ethics Commission to each Board Member for review.
  - The University General Counsel shall supplement the Summary with a brief memorandum outlining any other applicable provisions of Ohio law with which the Trustees must be familiar.
  - Each Trustee shall attend annual ethics education as provided by the University, the Board of Regents, or comparable program.

- Each Trustee shall submit to the Board Secretary an annual acknowledgement of the filing of their financial disclosure with the Ohio Ethics Commission.
  - Members who are not Trustees of the University or paid employees of the University are not subject to the Ethics Laws but may, at their option, avail themselves of the procedures outlined in B) and C) below.
- B) The University shall establish a database of all contracts with third party vendors to the University. Once a year the Secretary of the Board shall circulate a form to each Trustee on which the Trustee may, at his or her option, list any entities in which the Trustee (1) serves as a director or other fiduciary (both for-profit and not-for-profit entities), or (2) holds (individually and/or combined with other members of the Trustee's family and/or the Trustee's business associates) five percent (5%) or more of the ownership of the entity.
- A Trustee is encouraged to update the Trustee's entity list at any time the Trustee agrees to assume a directorship or other fiduciary relation with an entity or acquires a five percent (5%) or larger ownership interest in the entity (individually and/or combined with other members of the Trustee's family and/or the Trustee's business associates).
  - Upon receipt of the annual or update entity disclosures, the University shall determine whether the University has made any purchases of goods or services from each identified entity in the last twenty-four (24) months or whether it otherwise has any contracts with each identified entity. Upon completion of its review, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall promptly notify each Trustee of any situation in which the University has purchased goods or services from, or has a contract with, any entity listed by that Trustee on that Trustee's entity disclosure.
  - The University shall use its best efforts to not prospectively purchase any goods or services, or enter into a contract with, any entity listed by a Trustee on the Trustee's entity disclosure without the prior written consent of (1) the Trustee and (2) the General Counsel of the University.
  - The form shall be submitted to the General Counsel along with a request for legal advice pertaining to the Trustee or Member's obligations relating to their service. The General Counsel will provide the Trustee or Member a confirmation letter as well as a summary of preventative actions the University will take as outlined above.
- C) The General Counsel of the University shall be available to advise each Trustee with regard to any issue arising under the Ethics Laws. In doing so, the Office of Legal Affairs shall maintain the attorney-client privilege with the Trustee or Member unless expressly waived in writing by the Trustee or Member. If the Office of Legal Affairs is unable to provide representation consistent with maintaining the attorney-client privilege with the Trustee or Member, or otherwise believes a conflict might exist if the Office of Legal Affairs represented the Trustee or Member, the Office of Legal Affairs shall so inform the Trustee or Member.