



Board of Trustees Conflict of Interest Protocol

This Protocol summarizes the process by which the Office of Legal Affairs and Office of the Board of Trustees assist individual Trustees of the Ohio State University, as well as members of the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Board, and members of any Board Committees, in meeting their commitments under the Board of Trustees' Statement of Ethical Conduct and Leadership Integrity ("Statement") and Ohio Ethics Laws.

Candidate Screening: The Office of Legal Affairs will support the Board of Trustees in pre-screening potential trustees, Charter Trustees, Wexner Medical Center Board members, and members of Board Committees, when known, for possible ethics or conflict of interest issues based on publicly available information, prior to their appointment.

Charter and Committee Members: The Statement of Ethical Conduct and Leadership Integrity applies to both University Trustees ("Trustees") and Charter and Committee Members ("Members"). University Trustees are also governed by Ohio Ethics Laws. Members are expected to recognize potential conflicts of interest and respond accordingly, and the Office of Legal Affairs will assist both Trustees and Members as requested.

Ethics Education: At the time of his or her appointment, each Trustee and Member shall be invited to participate in a one-on-one education session by the General Counsel. The session will cover Ohio Ethics Law as it applies to the Trustee or Member and the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Leadership Integrity.

In addition, the University will provide Trustees and Members with an annual ethics education session that will cover Ohio Ethics Law as it applies to the Trustee or Member and the Statement of Ethical Conduct and Leadership Integrity.

The Board Office will also distribute the Summary of Substantive Provisions of the Ethics Law and Related Statutes prepared by the Ohio Ethics Commission and create a repository of relevant ethics documents that is accessible to Trustees and Members online.

Individualized conflict management plan: Where requested by an individual Trustee or Member, the General Counsel will define a management plan to assist in the management of a potential conflict. Such a plan may include assisting the Board Secretary in reviewing the Board Meeting agenda, prior to a meeting, to identify the potential conflict affecting individual Trustees or Members. Depending on the nature of the potential conflict, the Board materials may be redacted and other steps taken to ensure that the Trustee or Member appropriately recuses him- or herself from the discussion.

Optional Provision of List of Interests: 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 (combined with other members of the Trustee's family 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. 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 information so disclosed shall be held in confidence. Members may avail themselves of this process at their own initiative. The General Counsel will provide the Trustee or Member a confirmation letter as well as a summary of preventative actions the University will take to assist the Trustee or Member in managing the disclosed relationship(s).

Potential conflicting vendor list and University purchases: To assist Trustees in meeting their obligations under the Ohio Ethics Laws, and otherwise to manage their potential conflicts of interest, the Board Office, upon request, will provide to the Trustees the University's vendor list.

Financial Disclosure Filings: Annually, the Board Office will remind trustees of Ohio Ethics Commission financial disclosure filing requirements and upcoming deadlines, pay for filing fees, and confirm with each trustee that he or she properly filed their financial disclosure with the Commission.

Agenda Review: The Board Office will review each Board, Wexner Medical Center Board, and/or Committee agenda to identify items for action on those agendas that may pose potential conflicts of interest for individual Trustees and Members, based on previously disclosed or known information, and will consult with the individual trustee or member and the Office of Legal Affairs, as appropriate.

Exit meeting: At the time that a Trustee or Member retires from the Board or Committee, General Counsel will offer to review the ongoing ethical obligations of the Trustee or Member and offer ongoing support in interpretation of those obligations.