
Policy: Conflict of Interest Policy
Policy No: 4.05
Approved: Board of Trustees: March 2006
Revised: Board of Trustees: April 2014

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Faculty and staff of the State University of New York (University) are encouraged to foster an atmosphere of academic freedom by promoting the open and timely exchange of scholarly knowledge independent of personal interests. In keeping with this obligation, they are also required to avoid conflicts of interest.

In instances where potential or actual conflicts exist, faculty and staff are expected to consult with appropriate University officers and abide by this University policy. It is the responsibility of campus officials charged with implementing this policy to identify potential or actual conflicts of interest and take appropriate steps to manage, reduce, or eliminate them.

This policy represents a restatement of existing University policy and pertinent state and federal law and regulations.

1. University faculty and staff may not engage in other employment which interferes with the performance of their professional obligation.
2. University faculty and staff are expected to comply with the New York State Public Officers Law provisions on conflict of interest and ethical conduct.
3. University faculty and staff, to the extent required by law or regulation, shall disclose at minimum whether they (and their spouses and dependent children) have employment or financial interests or hold significant offices, in external organizations that may affect, or appear to affect, the discharge of professional obligations to the University.
4. University campuses shall ensure that all faculty and staff subject to pertinent laws and regulations disclose financial interests in accordance with procedures to be established by

the Chancellor or designee. Campuses shall retain the reported information as required, identify actual or apparent conflicts of interest and seek resolution of such conflicts.

5. Each campus president shall submit to the chancellor's designee the name and title of the person or persons designated as financial disclosure designee(s) and shall further notify the chancellor's designee when a change in that assignment occurs. The chancellor's designee shall also be notified of any reports regarding conflict of interest that are forwarded to state or federal agencies.

Definitions

Conflict of interest — any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; participation in any business, transaction or professional activity; or incurring of any obligation of any nature, which is or appears to be in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of an employee's duties in the 'public interest. A conflict of interest is also any financial interest that will, or may be reasonably expected to, bias the design, conduct or reporting of sponsored research.