Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 18, 2024

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Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

# APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES

**Action:** Approve Revisions to University Conflict of Interest Policies

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois Policy on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest Review Committee recommends approval of revisions to the University Policy on Conflict of Commitment and Interest, the University of Illinois System Policy on Financial Conflicts of Interest in Research, and the University of Illinois System Policy on Organizational Conflicts of Interest.

Management of conflicts of commitment and interest has grown in complexity as employees become increasingly involved in outside activities, many of which benefit the universities. State and federal oversight has also increased, making it important that the University of Illinois System continually examines relevant policies and procedures. The policy currently in effect was approved in July 2018.

Former executive vice president Barbara J. Wilson convened a committee in January 2021 to review the University’s Policy on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest. The 15-person committee included faculty and academic professionals from the three universities, as well as the System offices, with expertise in legal matters, research operations, procurement, and conflicts of interest. The committee began meeting monthly in February 2021 for several months to discuss a number of emerging issues related to conflicts of interest. During 2022, the revisions were vetted with key stakeholders, including the University Senates Conference and the university senates. Several revisions were made during that process based on feedback from stakeholders, as well as changes in federal policy over time.

The revisions are described below and noted in the attached documents.

**Overview of main changes to the University Policy on Conflict of Commitment and Interest**

* Rename the University Policy on Conflict of Commitment and Interest to University of Illinois System Policy on Outside Activities and Conflict of Commitment and Interest
* Several definitions expanded or added
* Clarifies and expands statement of policy, principles, and violations
* Delegates procedures to be defined by each university
* Removes the procedures from the policy, delegating each university to develop their own procedures

**Overview of main changes to the University of Illinois System Policy on Financial Conflicts of Interest in Research**

* Ensure compliance with terms, conditions, and regulations of federal sponsors

**Overview of main changes to the University of Illinois System Policy on Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

* Removes references to myDisclosures non-University activity reporting system

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs concurs with these recommendations.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.