

Examples of Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment

Some of the criteria that can be expected to be considered in reviewing anticipated outside professional activities for which advance disclosure is required are:

- Is the individual's primary responsibility to the Institution in danger of being compromised?
- If there is substantial personal professional effort for the individual, is it clear that these professional efforts will be consistent with Institution goals?
- If use of Institution personnel or facilities is planned, is this use secondary to, and not likely to interfere with, normal Institution activities?
 - Have such personnel agreed to work on such activity or project?
 - How are such personnel to be compensated?
- Is the Institution's ability to deal objectively with suppliers, contractors, or others with which it does business in any way compromised or would the appearance of such a possibility be created?
- Would any appearance of unfairness to other Institution personnel result?
- Would the stature of the individual in the scientific community or in his/her particular discipline be enhanced, as is usually the case when serving in the capacity of a professional referee, member of a visiting committee, editor of a scientific journal, or the like?
- Is the Institution's name inappropriately associated with the activity or is there a possibility that such an association could arise?
- Is inappropriate use to be made of ongoing research to provide profit or competitive advantage to a private interest?
- Does the activity carry with it the potential for inhibiting the free communication of ideas among colleagues in the Institution or for unreasonably restricting the availability or dissemination of the results of research?
- Are patent protections and patent licensing being properly considered and agreed upon?

In general, is the Conflict of Interest policy being adequately implemented?

Examples of COI or COC for ACECS review

- Holding a tenured position at another institution while a member of the WHOI scientific staff.
- Withholding information emanating from any sponsored research to attain personal gain or profit.
- Giving access to proprietary Institution information to assist an outside organization.
- Consulting under arrangements that impose obligations in conflict with Institution patent or copyright policy or with obligations to research sponsors. (Individuals must contact the Office of Technology Transfer for assistance with drafting standard form consulting agreements.)
- Circumstances in which research or other activities that ordinarily would be carried on within the Institution are conducted elsewhere to the disadvantage of the Institution.

- Owning, operating, or working at a company that competes with WHOI, or selling materials or services to WHOI as the owner, operator or employee of the vending business while also employed by WHOI.
- Being paid twice for the same work.
- Interactions with suppliers, contractors or subcontractors, or others doing business with the Institution in any way that may give favor based on personal considerations. The sole basis for any business transaction must be in the best interest of the Institution and its welfare.
- An activity (research project, conference, teaching program, consulting agreement, etc.) that an individual may wish to undertake on an individual or outside basis:
 - that involves or appears to involve the Institution's resources, logo, or reputation,
 - that violates any of the principles governing research supported by funds administered through the Institution, or that has the potential to inhibit the free communication of ideas among colleagues or restrict availability or dissemination of the results of research.
- Situations in which the time or effort an individual devotes to outside activities is large enough to compromise the amount or quality of his or her participation in the scholarly, educational, and/or administrative work of the Institution itself.
- Situations creating, or appearing to create, a conflict of interest.

Corporate sponsorship, donations and names request

Corporate sponsorship is a payment by a business to further WHOI's mission. ACECS will review all offers of or requests for corporate sponsorships of events, research, giveaways and other activities. ACECS will review any acknowledgement by WHOI of corporate sponsorship such as, the placement of corporate names and logos on WHOI websites, facilities, ships, publications, or other WHOI related items, and whether the acknowledgement is temporary or permanent. The goal of the review is to make sure that the sponsorship is aligned with WHOI's mission and values, while also maintaining the integrity and independence of its science and our researchers. ACECS does not need to review the use of a corporate names in a factual news story or WHOI publications.