

Policy Title:	Conflict of Interest
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Governing Body:	Southern Oregon University	Policy Number:	GEN.003
Policy Contact:	Chief of Staff	Date Revised:	July 2016
Custodial Office:	Office of the President	Date Approved:	July 2016
Approved By:	President	Next Review:	July 2019
Related Policy:			

Revision History

Revision Number:	Change:	Date:
-	Initial version	July 2015
1	Revision	July 2016

A. Purpose

This policy codifies and revises as Southern Oregon University Policy the rule previously adopted by the State Board of Higher Education concerning this topic and transferred to SOU by operation of law on July 1, 2015.

B. Policy Statement

A. As to members of the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Board of Trustees:

It is recognized that members of the Board of Trustees are appointed to serve interests and needs of higher education in the state of Oregon. The fulfillment of this charge requires strict adherence to the highest standards of ethical behavior.

The Board recognizes that the standards that govern this conduct are fully set forth in ORS Chapter 244 et seq. It is therefore the policy of the Board that all members, upon confirmation of appointment, and periodically thereafter, be made aware of the requirements of this law, or, subsequent versions thereof. It is the Board’s intent that this policy, or others adopted in furtherance of its purposes, be viewed and utilized as elaboration and guidance and that the statutory requirements set forth in Oregon law are binding authority to which members must adhere.

Board members are encouraged to examine prospective issues at the earliest opportunity for the potential of a conflict of interest and are reminded that compliance with the statutory requirements often require sensitivity to avoiding the appearance of impropriety. Members are to consult with the chair of the Board and/or counsel to the Board for guidance where appropriate. Formal opinion should be requested from the Government Standards and Practices Commission. All Board members shall file annually with the Government Standards and Practices Commission a verified statement of economic interests as directed by that Commission.

The Board further recognizes that persons appointed to this body bring long and valued histories of service to other segments of the state. These services often include advocacy on behalf of member institutions, particular regions of the state or groups served by the Board to include faculty, students, and alumni. All Board members are hereby

charged with embracing the statewide duties of Board membership. Each member is reminded that by accepting membership on the Board they agree to serve the general good and welfare of the whole of higher education in the State of Oregon.

**B. As to employees of SOU:**

The president and the vice presidents of SOU shall file annually with the Government Standards and Practices Commission a verified statement of economic interests.

No employee shall accept any outside employment that will discredit or embarrass SOU or the State of Oregon. Before accepting any outside employment, all employees shall comply with 580-21-0025.

Any employee of the Department in a position to influence or make recommendations concerning the award of any contract who is an officer, agent, or member of or directly or indirectly interested in the pecuniary profits or contracts or any corporation, association, or partnership which is doing business or seeking to do business with the Department of Higher Education, shall be considered to have a potential conflict of interest.

The text of this policy statement, and of Article XV, Section 7, of the Oregon Constitution, or pertinent portions of ORS chapter 244, and of 580-21-0025 shall be widely disseminated and made available to each current and new employee.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon approval.

**C. Policy Consultation**

This policy was transferred to SOU by operation of law on July 1, 2015 from the State Board of Higher Education Board Policy Manual. Revisions to the text of the policy were posted for campus comment on June 21, 2016.

**D. Other Information**

The Policy Contact, defined above, will write and maintain the procedures related to this policy and these procedures will be made available within the Custodial Office.