

Wright State University

Conflict of Interest Policy

Adopted: June 14, 2024

A. Overview

The State of Ohio established the board of trustees of Wright State University and granted the board to do “all things necessary for the creation, proper maintenance, and successful, continuous operation of the university.”

To ensure board of trustees carries out its public trust, university bylaws require the board to adopt a conflict-of-interest policy which requires trustees to abide by protections to the public embodied in Ohio’s ethics laws. The purpose of this policy, accordingly, is to document a Board of Trustees Conflict of Interest Policy in accordance with university bylaws.

B. Scope

This policy governs voting members of the board of trustees, national trustees, student trustees, administrative and academic officers, and all employees of the university.

C. Conflict-of-Interest

Ohio’s ethics law prohibits public officials or employees, including voting and student trustees of Ohio public universities, from participating in any way in actions or decisions that directly involve their own financial interests, or those of members of their family members of business associates. Generally, conflicts may arise when:

1. A trustee, officer, or employee has an existing or potential financial or other interest which impairs, or might appear to impair, his or her independence or objectivity in service to the university; or
2. A trustee, officer, or employee might derive, or appear to derive, a financial or other material benefit from confidential information learned during his or her board service or employment.

It is therefore the policy of the Wright State University Board of Trustees that when a trustee, officer, or employee is confronted with a matter that represents a conflict of interest in the discharge of their duties on behalf of the university, he or she shall immediately and completely recuse themselves from making decisions about or influencing how the matter is resolved. Such recusal includes refraining from voting, discussing, reviewing, recommending, inspecting, or taking any other action on the matter. In addition, any trustee, officer, or employee having conflict of interest shall make full disclosure thereof to the University’s General Counsel.

D. Conflict of Interest Statement

Individuals presiding over any board or committee meeting will, at the start of the meeting, communicate the university’s conflict-of-interest statement for the record, with such statement reminding meeting participants of their obligations under this policy.

E. Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed at least annually by the Finance, Audit, Governance, and Compliance Committee, which shall be responsible for recommending necessary revisions to the Board.