

Standing Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

Name of Committee or Council: Conflict of Interest Committee

Chair: Jenny Harris

Meeting Dates in Current Year: Electronic meetings occurred: September 2021,
November 2021, January 2022
Met once in-person: November 12, 2021

Committee members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Service Term</u>
Jenny Harris	Faculty, Library	Research and Instruction	2019-2022
McLean Fahnestock	Faculty, CoAL	Art and Design	2020-2023
Andrew Hendrickson	Faculty, CoBHS	HHP	2021-2024
Stephen Truhon	Faculty, CoBHS	Psychological Science and Counseling	2021-2024
Ellen Smyth	Faculty, CoSTEM	Mathematics & Statistics	2021-2024
Donna Short	Faculty, CoE	Teaching and Learning	2021-2024
Pam Gray	Faculty, Graduate	Communication	2020-2023
Jessica D'Alimonte	Staff, Academic Affairs	College of Business, Dean's Office	2018-2022
Corey Harkey	Associate General Counsel	University Attorney	ex officio*
Blayne Clements	Chief Audit Officer	Internal Audit	ex officio*

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

- During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Conflict of Interest Committee discussed and voted on four disclosures.
- All COI disclosures were shared with the committee members via e-mail, along with the Conflict of Interest Policy (1:001) and any other relevant policies.
- Committee members were asked to review the disclosures, then vote and provide comments via a Qualtrics survey.
- The committee chair then e-mailed the recommendations to President Licari for the final decision.
- The following inquiries and disclosures were presented to the committee during the 2021-2022 academic year:
 - In September 2021, a professor contacted the COI Committee Chair to inquire about how to proceed with incorporating a textbook into the School of Nursing curriculum that they were co-authoring with two other faculty members. This was simply an inquiry and not a disclosure since the book was still in development at

the time. The chair of the committee informed the professor that a disclosure would need to be submitted to the COI committee prior to the adoption of the book in any courses.

- A professor submitted a disclosure in mid-September regarding asking the President of APSU to write a letter of support for the Clarksville Community Concert Association. There did not appear to be any form of self-dealing, personal financial gain, or other situation/activity that creates a conflict of interest; therefore, the COI committee deemed there was no conflict of interest. The recommendation was then sent to President Licari.
- In November 2021, the COI Committee Chair received a disclosure from a professor regarding a relative being enrolled in their upper-division history course. The professor arranged for another professor to grade the relative's work, but did not notify the chair of their department or the Dean prior to the start of the semester.
 - After an electronic vote in which all eight voting members responded, the majority (5) voted "maybe" as to whether this was a conflict of interest. Two members voted "yes" and one "no." The committee determined it was best to meet in person to discuss the disclosure further.
 - After an in-person meeting on November 12, 2021 members voted again on the matter. The votes were 5 to 3 with this not being considered a conflict of interest, primarily based on the fact that there is no policy related to this particular situation. However, everyone agreed that clear procedures should be put in place for future situations, such as notifying and seeking approval from the chair.
 - After sending the recommendation to the President, the COI Committee Chair followed up with the Provost to determine next steps to address future issues of a similar nature.
- In November 2021, the COI Committee Chair received a disclosure from three professors requesting the use of their textbook for adoption in Spring 2022 education courses.
 - Seven of the eight voting members voted to approve the request to adopt the faculty-authored textbook. The recommendations from the committee were for the authors to consider donating the royalties to APSU. This would eliminate the financial interest component of the policy. The recommendation was then sent to President Licari.
- In January 2022, the COI Committee Chair received a disclosure from two professors in the College of Education requesting the adoption of a faculty-authored textbook.
 - Five of the eight voting members voted on the disclosure, and all voted to approve the request to adopt the textbook. Like the previous disclosure, there were recommendations that the authors donate the royalties to APSU, specifically for the courses they teach. The recommendation was then sent to President Licari.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Harris

Coordinator of Research & Instruction /Associate Professor
Chair – Conflict of Interest Committee
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