



ACADEMIC CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist the faculty in determining whether and to what extent such other activities may conflict with the faculty's primary commitment to teaching, research, investigating, and collegial responsibilities; to educate faculty and investigators about situations that generate the potential for conflicts of interest or conflicts of commitment; to clarify expectations about disclosing interests and activities that might result in conflicts; to identify means to manage, reduce or eliminate such conflicts; and to promote the best interests of students and others whose work depends on the direction of faculty members and Investigators.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Normally it is expected that there will be no conflict between faculty commitment to LIU and other activities in which faculty members may engage, that faculty and administrators will conduct their affairs so as to avoid or minimize conflicts of interest, and that should there be any actual, potential or appearance of conflicts between the individual's private interests and his or her professional obligations to LIU, the faculty member or Investigator will promptly disclose and resolve any issues before engaging in the activities.

LIU recognizes, however, that in undertaking activities as a part of a primary commitment to LIU or in outside endeavors, a divergence can occur between the personal interests of a faculty member or an Investigator and his or her professional obligations to LIU, in which case a conflict of commitment or conflict of interest can arise.

Every LIU faculty member and administrator has an obligation to become familiar with and abide by the provisions of this policy. If a faculty member or investigator has a question about whether an activity is permitted under this policy, the faculty member or administrator should disclose the potential or appearance of conflict to and seek guidance from his or her department chair or School Dean, or the Office of the Provost, or the Office of the General Counsel.

A conflict of interest may exist whenever an independent observer might reasonably question whether the individual's professional actions or decisions, including the ethical and objective conduct of scholarship, research or clinical care, are determined by considerations of personal gain, financial or otherwise.

The responsibility in the first instance for determining whether an activity presents a conflict of interest rests with the faculty member or administrator concerned. If there is any reasonable doubt as to whether an activity may constitute such a conflict, or there is a question about whether an activity is permitted under this policy, the faculty member or investigator must disclose the actual, potential or appearance of conflict to and seek guidance from his or her department Chair or Dean, the Office of the Academic Affairs or the Office of the General Counsel. Conflicts must be disclosed in writing; and any waiver of the conflict or management plan must be reduced to writing.

PROCEDURES

Faculty and administrators are required to disclose any conflict of interest to the Dean of their school or college and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

If a situation arises where a complainant (student/faculty/administrator) believes there to be a conflict of interest preventing them from lodging a complaint, the complainant shall discuss the subject of the complaint with the next higher level University official (program director, Chair, Assistant or Associate Dean, Dean). If the conflict of interest remains, the complainant shall bring their complaint to the VP for Student Affairs (or their designee) or VP for Academic Affairs (or their designee).

DEFINITIONS

Conflict of Interest: Any circumstance in which the personal, professional, financial or other interests of an individual including the immediate family members of the individual, may potentially or actually diverge from, or may be reasonably perceived as potentially or actually diverging from, his or her professional obligations to LIU and the interests of LIU.

POLICY TYPE: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

New: January 2025