

Research and Conflict of Interest Policy

1.1 St. Mary's University College is committed to Academic Freedom and excellence in teaching and research. In carrying out its mission the University College interacts with the wider community. To maintain public trust and confidence, the University College must deal with actual and perceived conflicts of interest in a fair, open, consistent and practical manner. The policies and procedures that follow are designed to provide a vigilant and pro-active approach to conflicts of interest.

1.2 Conflict of Interest is defined as: A situation in which there is or may be perceived to be a divergence between the private interest or benefit (financial or otherwise) of a researcher, the researcher's family, or an outside party, and that researcher's obligations to the University College, such that an impartial observer might reasonably question whether related actions to be taken or decisions made by the researcher would be influenced by consideration of the person's own interests.

1.3 Disclosure: A written report that discloses any actual or potential conflicts of interest is to be prepared by all researchers and submitted to the Chair of the Research Ethics Board and the Associate Dean-Faculty before any project of research commences. Any actual or potential conflicts that develop during the course of research are to be disclosed in writing to the Chair of the Research Ethics Board and the Associate Dean-Faculty as soon as they arise.

1.4 Conflict of Interest Review and Outcomes: In reviewing cases of actual or potential conflict of interest, the Research Ethics Board shall consider the following possible Assessments and Impacts:

- a) where an anticipated activity is assessed as not having the potential for conflict, the reporting person is free to proceed with the activity upon receiving notice to that effect from the chair of the Conflict of Interest Review Committee.
- b) where the anticipated activity is assessed as having the potential for conflict, but where it is seen to sufficiently serve the interests of the University College and can be managed in a way that is compliant with legislation, protects the integrity and reputation of the University College, and would withstand the test of reasonable and independent scrutiny, a suitable method of monitoring and managing the Allowed Conflicts is to be determined and implemented before the reporting person is free to proceed with the activity.
- c) where the anticipated activity is assessed as having the potential of conflict but is not seen as sufficiently serving the interests of the University College or as being appropriately manageable or able to withstand the test of reasonable and independent scrutiny, the conflict will not be allowed and the reporting person is not to proceed with the activity.

1.5 Non-compliance: Non-compliance with the decision of the Research Ethics Review Board constitutes Academic Misconduct and is subject to the policies and procedures contained in the Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarship.