



CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Introduction

John Carroll University expects its faculty,* officers, administrators, and staff (“employees”) to make decisions in the university’s best interests when conducting university business. Therefore, JCU expects all employees to avoid or disclose actual conflicts or the appearance of conflicts of interest.

JCU employees who make decisions about university policy, contracts or purchases are most susceptible to conflicts of interest because they may find themselves in circumstances in which certain financial or other interests could impair their duty to act in the best interests of the university. In addition, they may have access to confidential information which could be used to the financial or other material benefit of themselves, their family or business associates. Thus, while the policy applies to all, these influential employees should be especially careful about avoiding or disclosing conflicts.

Terms

An **actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict of interest** exists whenever JCU employees, their family members or their associates are doing business with or proposing to do business with the university;

An **actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict of interest** exists whenever JCU employees, their family members or associates receive gifts, compensation, services, materials, or entertainment from anyone doing business or proposing to do business with the university unless:

- the gifts, etc., are occasional and reasonably modest; or
- the employee intends to reciprocate, either personally or according to the university’s expense reimbursement procedures.

Family includes spouses, parents, siblings, and children.

Associates include any trust, organization, or enterprise in which the JCU employee or any family member:

- is a director, officer, employee, member, or trustee, or
- has a significant financial interest or any other interest which enables them to exercise control or significantly influence policy.

Associates also include persons with whom the employee or family member is in partnership.

*This general university conflict of interest policy governs all faculty members. Faculty members involved in sponsored research are additionally governed by the specific conflict of interest policy pertaining to sponsored research.

Persons have a **significant financial interest** if they:

- are the actual conflict or beneficial owners of more than five (5) percent of the voting stock or controlling interest of an organization or
- receive more than \$1,000 annually from the organization.

Responsibilities

Every JCU employee to whom this policy applies is to:

- review this policy annually
- acknowledge compliance with this policy by signing the attached Annual Disclosure Statement and returning it by the designated date
- disclose any actual conflict or the appearance of conflicts of interest as they arise.

Disclosure of Conflicts as They Arise

Upon discovering that an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict exists, the JCU employee involved must disclose the nature and extent of the conflict in writing to the Office of Human Resources and the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services.

Resolution of Conflicts

Whenever an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict has been disclosed, the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Office of Human Resources will consult, as appropriate, with the employee and other administrators and decide one of the following:

- there is no actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict
- an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict exists, but one too insubstantial to warrant further action
- an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict exists, which warrants further action.

When an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict exists, the employee involved may be required to: (1) refrain from deliberations and decisions concerning the university policy, contract or purchase which is the subject of the conflict; and/or (2) submit invoices or check requests to a designated supervisor for approval; and/or (3) comply with similar resolutions designed to remedy or avoid the conflict.

Follow the link to access the [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form](#).