

**Minutes**  
Conflict of Interest Subcommittee of the  
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)  
October 9, 2007 at 9:00am – Room 4141 HSLC

Members Present: Bill Busse, Maureen Durkin, Susan Goelzer, Steve Harsy, Kathy Irwin, Doug Mormann (phone), Rick Moss, Greg Nycz (phone)

Members Absent: Molly Carnes

Staff: Tracy Cabot, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

**1. Call meeting to order**

Busse called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

**2. Approval of August 14, 2007 minutes**

Goelzer moved approval of the August 14, 2007 minutes. Moss seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Discuss draft Conflict of Interest policy for the Medical Education and Research Committee**

Following a thorough discussion of the draft Conflict of Interest policy, the Subcommittee agreed to make the following changes:

- Definition of compensation includes payment for outside activities in field of academic or professional interest which exceeds \$5,000 in the past 12 months.
- Definition of professional relationship includes:
  - Positions equivalent to Department Chair and Section Head.
  - Service as a member or consultant to a Board of Directors of not-for-profit organizations, or other professional associations with or without compensation.
- Policy must indicate that MERC members are not eligible to apply as Principal Investigators for MERC funding during their respective membership terms, but that they may be consultants or a co-investigators without compensation.
- Policy should specify that Department Chairs do not necessarily have conflicts of interest by virtue of their positions, but that conflicts of interest may exist in departments in which all faculty and staff have a direct reporting relationship to the Chair. Consideration was given to listing specific departments in the footnotes.
- Process for disclosure should indicate that MERC may determine by a majority vote that a conflict does not exist.

Depending on the outcome of the five year planning process, the Subcommittee discussed the potential for the focus leaders to serve as a non-voting advisory group to MERC so they may continue to promote research and education in defined areas. The Subcommittee will meet again in October to review a final draft of the policy before it is sent to the MERC.

**4. Adjourn**

Busse adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

Recorder, Tonya Paulson