UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT WITH A COMPANY OWNED BY A WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to enter into a contract for professional services with CitizenDetroit Action Group, a Michigan nonprofit corporation. The contract will provide professional services in support of a WDET grant-funded project to expand the City Bureau Detroit pilot, a citizen journalism project and local media partnership to increase awareness and coverage of Detroit’s public meetings.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of CitizenDetroit Action Group is to educate residents to be fully engaged in the democratic life of the city; provide residents reputable information to make informed policy/political decisions; and encourage resident participation in the renaissance of neighborhoods/businesses by establishing and monitoring metrics that measure confidence in city government. Sheila Cockrel is the Executive Director of CitizenDetroit Action Group and is a part-time faculty member in the Wayne State University Honors College.

Michigan Conflict of Interest law requires specific sunshine procedures in order for a University employee, or a company owned by a University employee, to contract directly or indirectly with the University:

(A) The employee must disclose any pecuniary interest in the contract to the Board and the disclosure must be made a matter of record in the Board’s proceedings.

(B) The contract must be approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Board in open session.

(C) The Board’s minutes must report:

(i) The name of each party involved in the contract.

(ii) The terms of the contract, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the contract, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the contract.

(iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

If the Board approves this Recommendation, the minutes will report as follows:
The Board of Governors authorized the President, or his designee, to enter into a contract to provide up to $13,000 in professional services in support of a WDET grant-funded project to expand the City Bureau Detroit pilot, a citizen journalism project and local media partnership to increase awareness and coverage of Detroit’s public meetings.

(i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Citizen Detroit Action Group.

(ii) The contract will provide:

   a. Scope: To provide professional services in support of a WDET grant-funded project to expand the City Bureau Detroit pilot, a citizen journalism project and local media partnership to increase awareness and coverage of Detroit’s public meetings.

   b. Duration: The professional services contract will have a fixed term through December 2, 2019.

   c. Financial Consideration: The amount of the contract will not exceed $13,000.

   d. University Facilities to be Utilized: None – services provided by CitizenDetroit Action Group will be entirely off site.

   e. Employees assigned to the Services: No employees will be assigned to the services.

(iii) Pecuniary Interest: Sheila Cockrel is the Executive Director of CitizenDetroit Action Group and is a part-time faculty member in the Wayne State University Honors College. The pecuniary interest is based on Sheila Cockrel’s tenure as Executive Director of CitizenDetroit Action Group and, as such, may provide indirect financial support to Sheila Cockrel.