

SUBMITTED BY: EZEMENARI M. OBASI, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

**UNIVERSITY CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FROM MATH CORPS NATIONAL, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
WHOSE CEO IS A COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY MEMBER**

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Board of Governors authorize the President or her designee to contract with *Math Corps*, a non-profit organization, to perform services in support of the WSU Math Corps, a university outreach program for Detroit public school children.

BACKGROUND

The Wayne State University Math Corps, a university outreach program serving Detroit public school students, was founded in 1992 by Professor Steve Kahn. In the 32 years since, it has garnered national recognition and wide-spread acclaim, has received the NY Life Foundation's 2016 Excellence in Summer Learning Award, and has been the subject of the award-winning documentary on PBS, *It All Adds Up*. In 2016, the National Science Foundation awarded Wayne State University a \$3 million grant to establish Math Corps programs in Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Utica, NY. In 2018, Professor Kahn and others established a non-profit organization, called Math Corps National, to support WSU's fundraising efforts on behalf of the WSU Math Corps, while facilitating, through fundraising and management support, the WSU Math Corps' expansion nationally. Professor Kahn serves as the sole member and CEO of the corporation.

Math Corps National has received a \$149,500 Out-Of-School Time Learning grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential, and a second grant of \$310,800 from Summer Discovery. These grants are directed to be used to support the salaries and expenses for the Math Corps Summer Camp 2024 at Wayne State University. Math Corps National receives no material benefits or services from these awards.

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 two contracts with Math Corps National totaling \$149,500 and \$310,800 each to Wayne State University.

- i. The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Math Corps National.
- ii. a) The contracts are in support of the WSU Math Corps' Summer Camp 2024 at Wayne State University. The grant is to be used to support salaries and expenses for the program.
b) The contracts will have a term of 12 months, with a start date of May 1, 2024.
c) The program will be housed in Old Main and Manoogian.
- iii. Professor Kahn's pecuniary interest derives from receiving two months of summer salary for his work on the project.