

BINGHAMTON

UNIVERSITY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research

Managing Conflict of Interest

The Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research (ACSR) advises the Vice President for Research on matters relating to scholarship and research. This often includes (but not limited to) the internal review of proposals as part of internally funded seed grant programs, the review of proposals for submission to external funding organizations where there is a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by the institution, the review of Organized Research Centers and Institutes for Advanced Studies, and the review of proposals for new Organized Research Centers.

As with any review process, it is essential that members of the review committee avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest (COI) in their reviews. The relatively close departmental associations among faculty and other applicants for seed grants for an internal grant program or any other program within a focal area of research precludes the ability to establish a policy that is overly exclusionary for reviewer eligibility. Thus, for the purposes of this committee, reviewers shall be deemed in conflict with any proposal/report in which they or their close affiliates are a named collaborator in the proposal/report. The term “close affiliates” shall include active collaborators (having published or submitted joint grants within the last 2 years), members of their own laboratory (graduate students, post docs, research scientists, etc), or other individuals that would endanger the objectivity of their review. In such cases, we will rely on the sound judgment of the reviewer to honestly identify proposals/reports for which they are in conflict, and recuse themselves from review of materials and all discussions and rankings pertaining to that proposal/report.

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