Interdisciplinary Collaboration Grants Program
Managing Conflict of Interest

The Interdisciplinary Collaboration Grants (ICG) Program provides funds to facilitate the development of collaborations at Binghamton University. This program is for investigators who seek to enhance their research opportunities through collaboration and may include projects that represent a new research agenda.

The Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research (ACSR) reviews and ranks the proposals submitted to this program. Reviewers may not have a pending proposal in response to the Call.

As with any proposal review process, it is essential that members of the review committee avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest (COI) in the review and ranking of proposals. The relatively close departmental associations among faculty and other applicants for seed grants for an internal grant 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 program, reviewers shall be deemed in conflict with any proposal in which they or their close affiliates are a named collaborator in the proposal. 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 scientific review. In such cases, we will rely on the sound judgment of the reviewer to honestly identify proposals for which they are in conflict, and recuse themselves from review of materials and all discussions and rankings pertaining to that proposal.

Advisory Committee on Scholarship and Research
Revised December 2014