I.7 Conflicts of Interest

No member of the Board shall directly or indirectly receive any compensation or remuneration, nor derive any profit or gain by reason of his/her membership on said Board or by reason of his/her services to the College. It shall be the obligation of each member of the Board to disclose to the Board any personal interest which he/she may have in any matter pending before the Board, and the member having such interest shall refrain from participating in any decision on such matter unless the other members of the Board shall unanimously waive this provision.

Trustees ought to use their own good sense and judgment, pursuing conduct not likely to raise suspicion. Boards of Trustees are encouraged to handle their own affairs regarding propriety of conduct, but in matters of unusual complexity to seek advice from State University of New York Office of Community Colleges and/or the sponsor or the College attorney. Code of ethics and conflict of interest provisions are set forth in the State's General Municipal Law. In addition, local government sponsors of community colleges may adopt their own codes of ethics. Conflicts of interest are the kind of ethical problems most likely to arise. The very nature of trusteeship prohibits a trustee from any breach of his/her fiduciary duty. However, conflicting interests can and do arise when no direct, or even at times indirect, financial benefit is either clearly visible or likely to occur. Some conflict may exist when a trustee or his/her spouse serves as a director, officer, shareholder or key employee of a company with which the College does business. It is the public's perception of these connections that can be as damaging to the Board and the College itself as the actual acquiring of personal gain.

(Revised: October 17, 2011)