## Assignment # 01



# Fall 2021

## **Professional Ethics**

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"On my honor, as student of University of Engineering and Technology, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this academic work."

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted to:

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## **Question 1:**

Define conflict of interest and provide three examples?

#### **Answer:**

Conflict of interest arises in circumstances where an employee's public duty is influenced, or can be seen to be influenced, by a private interest. Private interests include both financial and non-financial interests, and can include the interests of family members and close friends or associates. They can be positive or negative interests—personal enmity towards someone can be just as relevant as loyalty to them.

## **Examples:**

A manager hires their nephew in a supervisory role even though their family member does not have any experience and other candidates are better suited for the position.

An employee has a second job at an organization that develops a product or offers a service that is in direct competition with their other employer.

A judge who has a personal relationship with one of the parties appearing before them in court that chooses to preside over the case anyway.

## **Question 2:**

Take any educational organization/ university and find out if it has documentation on conflicts of interest and, if so, briefly describe what this documentation states.

### **Answer:**

I found NUML's documentation on conflicts of interest. It is well documented and addresses almost every part of COIs. Following is a brief part of that documentation:

A conflict of interest arises where the commitments and obligations owed by a member of staff or student to the University or to other bodies, for example a funding body, are likely to be compromised, or may appear to be compromised, by: (a) personal gain, or gain to immediate family (or a person with whom the staff or student has a close personal relationship), whether financial or otherwise; or (b) the commitments and obligations that person owes to another person or body.

There can be situations in which the appearance of conflict of interest is present even when no conflict actually exists. Thus it is important for all staff and students when evaluating a potential conflict of interest to consider how it might be perceived by others. Apparent or perceived conflicts of interest can be as damaging as actual conflicts of interest.

In order to recognize actual or perceived conflicts of interest, key interests need to be identified. Within the scope of this Policy, there are three main dimensions to be considered:

Dimension 1: roles and relationships Actual or potential conflicts generally arise from:

- roles or activities involving parties outside the University;
- roles held by staff and students outside the University;
- multiple roles held by staff and students inside the University;

- committee membership and roles involving decision-making in or on behalf of the University, departments, faculties or other units; and
- close personal relationships.

Dimension 2: activities giving rise to potential conflicts Actual or potential conflicts generally arise from:

- spinouts and other companies in which staff and students have an interest;
- intellectual property;
- procurement;
- complex commercial transactions and arrangements;
- conduct and funding of research;
- external activities and appointments;
- admissions; and
- recruitment.

Dimension 3: financial and nonfinancial conflicts; Conflicts of interest may be financial, nonfinancial or both.