Rock Valley College

RVC Board Policy 3:10.120

Conflict of Interest - Employees

All employees shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the highest standards of ethical conduct, and in a manner that is in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. This includes avoiding real and potential conflicts of interests.

A conflict of interest arises whenever the employee has the opportunity to influence College operations or business decisions in ways that could result in a personal financial benefits to the employee or a member of an employee's immediate family. Personal financial benefits include, but are not limited to, direct financial payments, deferred compensation, gifts, or in-kind donations to the employee or immediate family member.

Employees shall voluntarily disclose to his or her supervisor any situation in which the employee has a real or potential conflict of interest. Each employee will observe and adhere to the College's Employee Code of Ethics Policy. All employees required to file statements of economic interest under the Illinois Government Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 420/4A-101(i), shall also report that information to the College. The Administration shall prepare procedures and forms for employees to disclose their economic interests to the College, including all information required to be disclosed under the Ethics Act (5 ILCS 420/4A-102).

Violation or failure to disclose or properly identify a conflict of interest may subject the employee to disciplinary action.

The College reserves the right to modify an employee's position, including job duties and responsibilities, in order to avoid a conflict of interest under this policy. The following are examples of conflicts of interest requiring employee disclosure or abstention, and are only illustrations and not meant to be exclusive:

1. An employee or immediate family member of the employee owns, in whole or in part, a business entity with which the College does or proposes to do business, and the employee is in a decision-making role or otherwise is in a position to influence the College's business decisions regarding the business entity, or otherwise benefit from the College transacting business with the entity.

2. An employee holds or assumes an executive, officer or director position in a for-profit or not-for-profit business or entity engaged in educational, commercial, or activities similar to those of the College.

3. Employee participates in consultation activities for a for-profit or not-for- profit business or entity or entity engaged in educational, commercial, or activities similar to those of the College.

The following activities are prohibited under this Policy:

1. Using College property, facilities, equipment or other resources in any manner that results in personal financial benefit to an employee or a member of an employee's immediate family.
2. Using College property, facilities, equipment or other resources in any manner to perform outside work or to further private interests (e.g. vehicles, supplies, facilities, equipment or inside information).
3. Using College stationary or letterhead in connection with outside activities, other than activities having a legitimate relationship to the performance of College business.
4. Using College facilities or the employee's position at the College for the purpose of advocating, endorsing, or marketing the sale of any goods or services, other than as part of the employee's College responsibilities, without the prior approval of a supervisor.
5. Requiring students to use the employee's published works and products for papers and lectures when the employee is realizing a profit from the published works and products.
6. Using the College's name, trademark or trade name for personal business or economic gain to the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.
7. Using any College data or information for personal financial benefit to the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.
8. Using any College employee for any outside activity during normal work time for which he or she is receiving compensation from the College.
9. Participating in the selection or awarding of a contract between the College and any entity with which an employee is seeking employment or has been offered employment.
10. Obtaining personal financial gain from fellow employees, students, and persons doing business with the College in the course of outside employment.
11. Accepting gifts, except those of nominal value ($100 or less), from any person doing, or seeking to do, business with the College.
12. Other activities may be prohibited if a supervisor concludes that there is no reasonable way to manage an associated conflict of interest.

Reference: Board Report 7574, 8377
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