

TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS POLICY
ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST, ETHICS, AND
PREFERENTIAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

(04/19/2013)

The mission of the Tisch School of the Arts (“TSOA”, “School”) is to help create thinking artists and scholars who are connected to the world and engaged with the critical issues of the day.

An important means of accomplishing this mission is the active engagement of the TSOA faculty in outside professional activities that contribute to the richness of the educational experience and opportunities offered to students.

TSOA recognizes that there are some professional activities and relationships especially those involving matriculating TSOA students which may be in conflict with a TSOA faculty member’s obligations to the school and which compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, the fair and objective execution of their academic responsibilities, which include but are not limited to: teaching, advising, and other administrative duties and service.

Despite the best of intentions certain faculty/student relationships can lead to the perception of a conflict of interest or raise serious ethical concerns. Such situations may jeopardize the integrity and reputation of the school and the individual TSOA faculty member involved.

It is the policy of TSOA that if a faculty member and student propose to enter into a collaborative, extramural business

arrangement they may only do so provided there has been full disclosure, review and counseling of all parties as set out in the “TSOA Conflict of Interest Reporting Procedure” that follows.

This policy supplements the current NYU Policy on Academic Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment:

“...any circumstance in which the personal, professional, financial or other interests of an individual (including Immediate Family Members of the individual), may potentially or actually diverge from, or may be reasonably perceived as potentially or actually diverging from, his or her professional obligations to NYU and the interests of NYU. A Conflict of Interest may exist whenever an independent observer might reasonably question whether the individual’s professional actions or decisions, including the ethical and objective conduct of scholarship, research or clinical care, are determined by considerations of personal gain, financial or otherwise.”

Ethical challenges involve situations in which there is the potential for or the perception of preferential treatment of one student above others resulting from faculty collaboration with a student for faculty advancement or benefit, financial or otherwise, or situations in which a faculty member’s activities affect, or have the potential to affect, the availability of TSOA resources intended for students.

All TSOA faculty should become familiar with the terms of this policy and abide by its terms. For purposes of this policy TSOA faculty includes any person in a teaching or advising role in a TSOA program, regardless of title or rank, any TSOA administrator and any other TSOA employee.

This policy supports and upholds the TSOA Ownership Policy concerning student work.

This policy supersedes the current policy entitled Tisch School of the Arts Conflict of Interest in Faculty-Student Collaborative Relationships as well as any specific departmental policies previously adopted.

In the event of a discrepancy between a term of this policy and the relative term in the NYU Policy on Academic Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment, the term of the NYU policy and/or code will control.

TSOA CONFLICT OF INTEREST REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Any TSOA Faculty member to whom this Policy applies (especially where a student is currently enrolled in the Faculty member's current class) is required to submit a memorandum along with any relevant documentation, e.g. contracts, deal memos, employment agreements, etc. to the Chair of his or her department.

In considering matters under this Policy, the guiding principles should be transparency, full disclosure, and the protection of students' rights to academic and creative freedom, and ownership interests in their creative work(s).

The memorandum should clearly define the work to be done, any remuneration, the respective roles of the TSOA Faculty member and student(s) involved in the project, how the student/s were selected and informed of the opportunity, a

syllabus, if relevant, as well as the pedagogical benefit(s) to the student(s) involved.

The Chair of the department will make his/her recommendation regarding the project to the All-School Committee, which will be a standing committee composed of administrators, faculty, and TSOA legal representatives for their review and disposition.

The All-School Committee will be required to issue at least a preliminary response within a stated period of time and a final report within five working days.

In such cases where “time is of the essence” the Chair’s recommendation may serve as a provisional decision until the All-School Committee issues its decision.

The All-School Committee’s disposition and/or management plan will be binding on all persons involved; provided however, that any person affected by the disposition may appeal the disposition directly to the Dean, whose determination will be final.