

School of Dentistry Interaction With Industry Protocol

Overview (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Interactions with Industry Policy August 2013)

The primary objectives of professional and ethical interaction between the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD) and Industry should be the advancement of health of patients through education, research and training; and that those interactions must maintain patient and the public's trust. Interactions with industry may provide the opportunity for mutual benefit. It is important that these interactions are ethical and they must demonstrate the management of actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest. These include conflicts of interest that affect the integrity of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's education, training and research programs; that may lead to increased costs of healthcare; that compromise patient safety or confidentiality; or that introduce bias by not maintaining professional autonomy or upholding the scientific method. Having a potential Conflict of Interest is not in itself a problem; failure to declare and appropriately manage potential conflicts would be a problem.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the actions and behaviors of the faculty, staff, trainees and students of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry are free from commercial influence and based upon the best scientific evidence available. The policy does not replace the University's Conflict of Interest and Commitment and Institutional Conflict Policy but supplements it.

School of Dentistry Protocol

Throughout the course of their program students in dentistry, dental hygiene and graduate studies are approached by various representatives and stake holders from the dental and associated industries which include, but are not limited to, dental supply companies, equipment manufacturers and representatives from the banking, legal, insurance, real estate and accounting industries. Often times these individuals invite the students to information sessions or workshops and provide not only food and refreshment but, a variety of promotional gifts and other sundry items. While arguably an important part of the process of transitioning the learner to the nuances and rigors of practice, student acceptance of these tangible 'goods and services' is ethically and professionally in direct violation of the FoMD's *Interactions With Industry Policy (IWIP)*. To satisfy both the needs of the learners and the intent of the IWIP the following practices and rules are suggested.

1. Defintions:

- i. **Gift:** For the purposes of the IWIP protocol a gift is defined as any funds, tangible item, benefit or perk that is provided to a learner(s) or faculty by 'industry' or a representative of industry that is outside of and in addition to the expectations of the School of Dentistry curriculum and program; on or off campus. This definition includes food and beverages.
- ii. **Learner:** Any full or part-time individual who is enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate program in the School of Dentistry.

- iii. **Faculty:** Any full or part-time, clinical or non-clinical individual who is a member of the academic staff in an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate program in the School of Dentistry.
- iv. **Industry:** Any company, organization or individual engaged in the delivery of dental services or associated with the practice of dentistry and delivery of oral healthcare who potentially would gain monetarily from interacting or obligating learners and Academics in the School of Dentistry.
- v. **School Donation:** Any funds, tangible item, benefit or perk that is given to the school of dentistry at arm's length to be used or redistributed at the discretion of the School of Dentistry.

2. **Food and Catering:** Food is considered a 'gift' and should not be accepted from industry on-site or off-site. Because, as outlined in the FoMD IWIP, unrestricted financial gifts to the institution may be used in part to provide food and the decision to use gift funds to provide food will be made at the sole discretion of the School of Dentistry the following is protocol is suggested:

- i. A business or other individuals planning to hold an informational or other group session with School of Dentistry Learners must first make this request to the Associate Chair, Student Affairs (ACSA). The request may be channeled through the Dental Student Association (DSA) representative. They will be asked to fill out an "Access to Students Request" which will be reviewed by the ACSA. Should the students not want to meet with the petitioner, the matter will be dropped. Should the student body wish to meet with the petitioner, the student body representative will have the petitioner fill out the School of Dentistry [Interaction With Industry Request Form](#)
- ii. The ACSA will review the request and make a disposition. The ACSA will notify the DSA Representative and If the request is authorized the DSA Representative or their alternate will act as the liaison between the School of Dentistry and the industry representative.
- iii. In the interest of consistency and fairness the School of Dentistry will identify two or three of local food suppliers for supplying food and refreshment for the functions. The DSA representative will determine the number of attendees and the food and refreshments will be ordered by a designated School of Dentistry support staff member or the DSA Representative under the guidance of the designated School of Dentistry support staff member (Pat Kent).
- iv. Prior to placing the food order it will be expected that the hosting industry will make a cash gift to the School of Dentistry (Assistant Chair Finance) equal to or greater than the anticipated cost of the order (***it should be understood that providing this gift does not necessarily mean it will be used for the purchase of food and that the dispersing of these funds will be at the discretion of the School of Dentistry***). Alternatively the School of Dentistry may choose to invoice the hosting industry representative for the

cost of the refreshments and management costs. The Associate Chair, Student Affairs, or a designate will attend the function as a representative of the School of Dentistry.

- 3. Gifts:** On occasion, industry may choose to provide a variety of gifts for the dental students. These may include items such as back packs, electric tooth brushes, sundries, electronic equipment and considerations for attending future training sessions or other activities that may be designed to gain commercial impact. All these items are considered gifts and as outlined in the FoMD IWIP cannot be directly accepted by the student(s)
- i. Following application and acceptance, as outlined in **(2. i.)** the DSA Representative or their alternate will act as the liaison between the School of Dentistry and the industry representative.
 - ii. Any gifts, prizes or other free items must be donated to the School of Dentistry. This will be coordinated through a School of Dentistry support staff member (Pat Kent) and the DSA Representative (***It should be understood that providing the gifts does not necessarily mean they will be dispersed to the attending students. The decision as to when and to whom the gifts are dispersed will be at the discretion of the School of Dentistry.***)
 - iii. The Associate Chair, Student Affairs, or a designate will attend the function as a representative of the School of Dentistry.
- 4. Final Comments:**
- The expectation is that the activities listed above will be undertaken and coordinated, for the most part by the DSA Student Representative.
 - The DSA Student Representative will act under the guidance of the designated support staff individual and the ACSA.