



Press Release ***June 18, 2012***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES ADVISORY OPINIONS

At its meeting on Friday, June 15, 2012, the Ohio Ethics Commission conducted its monthly review on Financial Disclosure statistics, complaint reports, and statewide Commission public outreach and communication efforts.

In reviewing deadlines where criminal penalties may apply, the Commission granted some late fee waiver requests where financial disclosure filers provided appropriate documentation to justify a waiver. Finally, in executive session, the Commission heard a confidential report on complaints and pending investigations concerning alleged violations of the Ethics Law and related statutes and litigation.

The also issued two advisory opinions related to public grants.

In the first opinion, the Commission responded to a question from the Director of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) who also serves as Chair of the Third Frontier Commission. The opinion addressed whether the Director can serve on the Board of Trustees of Ohio Northern University since the private University receives funds from ODOD grants awarded by the Third Frontier Commission. The Commission concluded that the Director could serve as a trustee if she fully removes herself from any matters before ODOD that affect the university and if she can meet an exception to the public contract prohibition. Click [here](#) to read the opinion.

The Commission also responded to a question from a member of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority (OTTA) who is also the Executive Director for the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education. The Council receives grant funds from the ODOD and the Board of Regents. The Commission concluded that there was no conflict of interest for OTTA board member if the Higher Education Council continued to receive grants from the ODOD and

Board while she serves on the Authority. However, the Ethics Law does restrict her activities as both the Council's Executive Director and the Authority board member. Click [here](#) to read the opinion.