

Resolution:

Whereas, the Mid-Hudson Library System policy for Conflict of Interest requires any staff or board member to notify the Executive Committee of a potential conflict, and

Whereas, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Executive Director) notified the Executive Committee of the possibility for Long Island University to present the Advanced Certificate in Public Library Administration course for the MHLS at its meeting on April 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS this is a very valuable course for MHLS to offer to mid-career library professionals; and

WHEREAS the only way this course could be presented to MHLS would be if Rebekkah Smith Aldrich herself were to teach one or more professional post-graduate courses (between 2021 and 2023 ) to library staff employed in the Mid-Hudson Library System and by member libraries of the system, in a Mid-Hudson facility, and

Whereas, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich informed the Executive Committee at its meeting of April 28, 2021 that this employment arrangement would come under the MHLS Conflict of Interest policy (under §4.2C it is a Related Party Transaction under §2.9, so §4.2D does not apply), and the Executive Committee agreed that it would, and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee noted that since Rebekkah Smith Aldrich has no vote in Executive Committee decisions that she could continue to attend the meeting during the discussion of the proposal to provide information as needed; and

WHEREAS the only alternative to this arrangement is that MHLS would not be able to offer the training from Long Island University; and

"Whereas, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich proposed to donate the proceeds of her employment agreement with Long Island University (minus the taxes for which she will be liable) to the Mid-Hudson Library System or to a fund recognized by the IRS as 501(c)3 (tax deductible) for the benefit of MHLS as directed by the MHLS Executive Committee at the time of the gift as a resolution to this conflict of interest, and"

WHEREAS every member of the Executive Committee (Ric Swierat, Barry Ramage, Mark Wilson Stuart Auchincloss and Priscilla Goldfarb) was present at its meeting on September 1, 2021 and they determined unanimously that the arrangement is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of MHLS on the basis that the training will be very useful to librarians in the MHLS and that it would not happen if Rebekkah Smith Aldrich was not available to teach one or more courses, and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee having considered the requirements of the MHLS Conflict of Interest Policy and recommended an arrangement to resolve the conflict of interest and to provide the Advanced Certificate program to the MHLS members.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Board determines that a more advantageous arrangement is not reasonably possible and that the arrangement proposed by the Executive Committee is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of MHLS, and that pursuant to §6.1 of the Conflict of Interest Policy the Executive Committee shall oversee the implementation of this resolution.

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