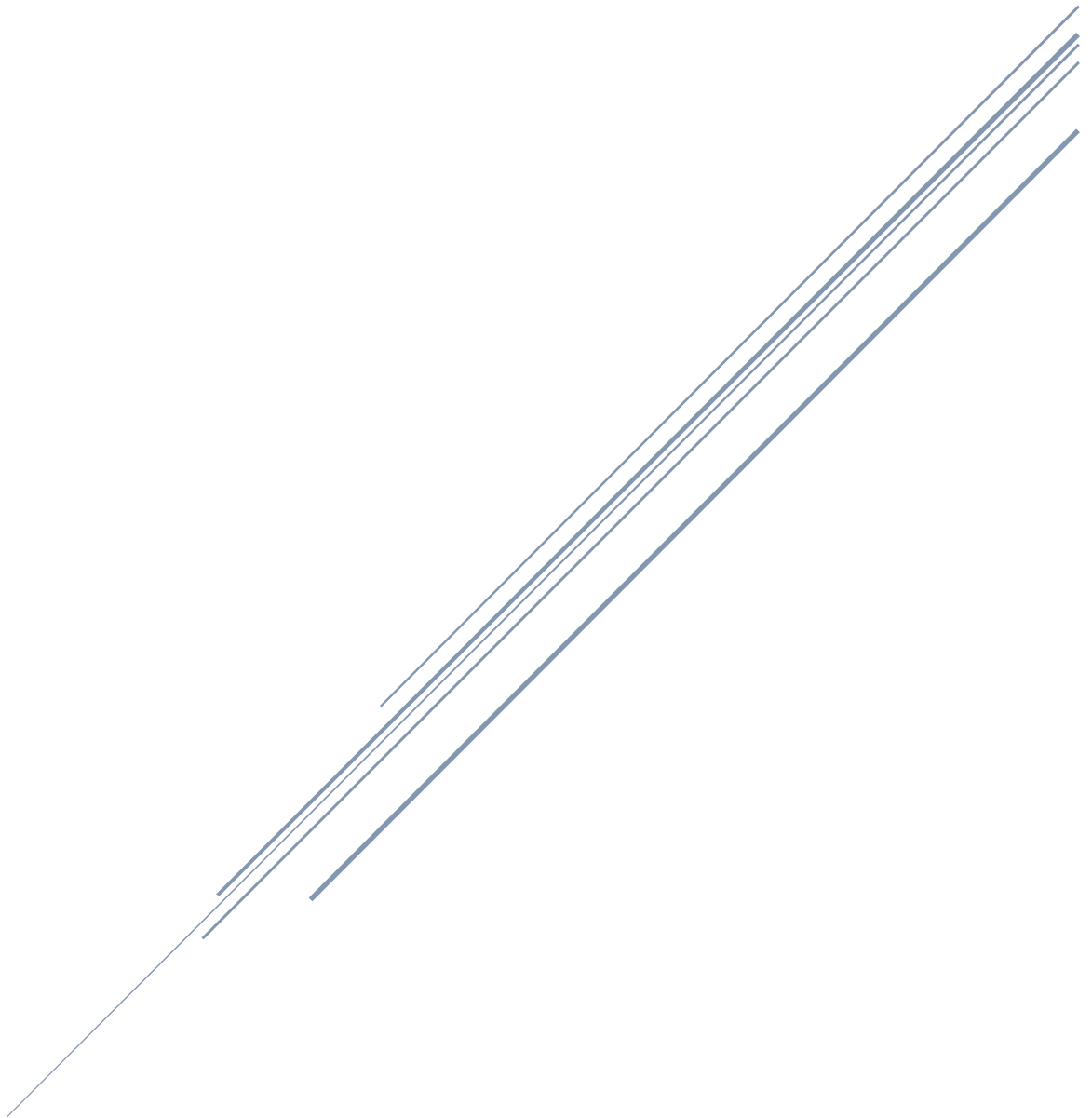




# BENAWA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Conflicts of Interest in Research Policy



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# Conflict of Interest in Research

## Introduction

Faculty members at Benawa Institute of Higher Education (BIHE) are committed to do research for the expansion and dissemination of knowledge and education, in conformity with the Institute's Identity, Mission, Vision, and Values.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles for identifying and managing financial conflicts of interest related to sponsored research conducted at the Institute. Conflict of interest could arise:

- When a member of the Institute involved in sponsored research is in a position to influence a decision, policy, or purchase, with the intent to financially benefit, provide benefit to others, or advantage or disadvantage Institute, staff member, or student.
- As a consequence of researchers' involvement in outside activities or commitment, adversely affecting the primary faculty commitment to BIHE in terms of student instruction, research, and services.

When a researcher (or immediate family member or co-dependent) has a financial interest in an external venture that exhibits similarity to the researcher's line of investigation at the Institute. Such financial interest encompasses any form of paid service.

## Guiding Principles for Avoiding Conflict of Interest

- Research findings are normally disseminated as broadly as possible. Researchers working on sponsored research projects however, reserve the right not to disclose information or content of research unless an approval is granted by the stakeholders.
- Sponsored research cannot be accepted if the findings are predicated, predetermined, dictated, or influenced by the sponsor or any other party.
- The Institute encourages research involving student participation as part of its educational goals; however, the students' competencies, rights, and well-being must prevail over any other consideration(s) in the selection process. Researchers must exercise common sense when involving students in projects, with outcomes that serve the interests of a researcher in terms of personal gain or any other personal benefit accruing from such research.

It is the duty of researchers involved in external consulting or other agreements to ensure that these external commitments do not in any way conflict with the BIHE policy, or the commitment of the Institute under sponsored grant or contract.

## **Resolving Conflict of Interest**

The professional integrity of a researcher is the first and most fundamental line of defense against conflict of interest. In the emergence of a Conflict of Interest, a disclosure form must be submitted to an ad-hoc committee of the Institute Research Board (IRB): Conflict of Interest Review Committee (IRB-CIRC). This committee convenes under the authority of the VC Academics. It receives and evaluates each case in collaboration with the Dean of the concerned Faculty. After due investigation, the committee will recommend the appropriate measure(s) to the Chancellor by which research objectives would be reached.

Conflict of Interest in Research Policy is approved by Benawa Institute of Higher Education Academic Council (2<sup>ND</sup>) Protocol held on 22/03/1399.