

March 1-2, 2012

ITEM 154-1006-R0312

Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; The University of Montana

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves UM-Missoula employee Maria Pascual for having an equity interest in and to serve as an officer, employee, or member of a governing board of, The Legal Atlas, LLC, a Montana limited liability company. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with The Legal Atlas, LLC for use of University facilities, if needed.

EXPLANATION

Maria Pascual, a Research Scientist, is a UM employee at the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center. She seeks approval to hold an equity interest in and to serve as an officer, employee, or member of a governing board of The Legal Atlas, LLC, a Montana limited liability company established to partner with the University of Montana for the creation of an open source, virtual knowledge platform for legal development in the fields of environment, agriculture and natural resources as well as the provision of international legal consulting services. The Legal Atlas is bringing valuable and unique intellectual property, along with existing consultation projects and contacts in fields and countries with strong Legal Atlas-UM synergies potential, for the purpose of jointly developing both the platform and new projects involving UM.

Pascual will work in accordance with a conflict management plan developed by UM. Under Policy 407 and MCA 20-25-109, university employees must have board approval to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of a business entity, or to hold an equity interest in a business entity which has an agreement with, or shares ownership of intellectual property with, the university, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property.

UM benefits from this approval. By allowing this University-private sector relationship, intellectual property developed at The University of Montana can be used to grow a Montana-based company, will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and will generate goodwill for University employees and the private sector.

ATTACHMENTS

Submission Form