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RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
560 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Enclosure 7j.
December 2, 2015

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TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D., Commissioner for Postsecondary Education

Date: November 24, 2015

RE: Discussion and recommendation for approval of a Request for Exemption from the University of Rhode Island's conflict of Interest Management Committee (CIMC) in accordance with the terms of the Rhode Island Public Private Partnership Act.

The Council on Postsecondary Education's predecessor Board, RIBGHE, adopted policies and procedures in consultation with the R.I. Ethics Commission for the implementation of the Public Private Partnership Act. In accordance with these policies and procedures, the University of Rhode Island has established a conflict of interest committee to consider and address requests for exemptions pursuant to the Act.

The University of Rhode Island's Conflict of Interest Management Committee (CIMC) has conducted a review of a Request for Exemption (RFE) submitted by Walter Besio, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering. The Committee has determined that it approves the requested exemption under the terms of the proposed management plan detailed in Appendix A, Step 3, Attachment 1 in the enclosed documents.

Raymond Wright, Ph.D., P.E., Dean of the College of Engineering, Gerald Sonnenfeld, Ph.D., Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and President David M. Dooley, Ph.D., have reviewed and approved these documents as well.

Dr. Besio has established a company, CREmedical Corporation, which is developing a high definition brain signal recording system.

A License Agreement has been executed between CREmedical Corporation and the URI Research Foundation (URIRF) stating URI's intent to license the relevant technologies to them. In addition, a Facilities Use Agreement has also been written between CREmedical and the Electrical, Computer, and

The CIMC has determined that the activity performed under the agreement does not violate any of the five activities prohibited under the terms of the Rhode Island Public/Private Partnership Act.

1) Outside activities and/or relationships in which the faculty or staff member diverts to external businesses or entities or other institutions, opportunities for research support that could have been obtained by the institution.
2) Participation in institutional research which is funded by a grant or contract from a business or entity in which the employee or a member of his or her family or his or her business associate, separately or in the aggregate, has a controlling ownership interest.
3) Assignment of students to research projects sponsored by a business or entity in which the employee or a member of his or her family or his or her business associate, separately or in the aggregate, has a substantial ownership interest.
4) Outside activities in which an institution's student or employee is directly or indirectly supervised by the individual seeking the exemption if the individual in any way supervises or evaluates the student or employee as part of his or her institutional duties.
5) Direct supervision of any student or employee in one's capacity as a university employee and in one's capacity as an official, employee or agent of the private company, business or entity.

The management plan as agreed to by the CIMC is attached to this cover letter. Please note that the meeting packet has included a copy of the Rhode Island Public Private Partnership Act and the University's Conflict of Interest policy for reference purposes.

Accordingly, I recommend:

THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education approves this exemption regarding Walter Besio, Ph.D., in accordance with the terms of the Rhode Island Public Private Partnership Act. Upon approval by the Council, this request will be forwarded to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission for examination and approval per R.I. G.L. 16-59-26(h).