
**IN THE MATTER OF
CHARLOTTE TREBY WILLIAMS,
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER,
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**Commission Case No. 42-16
DECISION**

BACKGROUND

The College of New Jersey (“TCNJ”) requests an exception to Executive Order 14 (Corzine 2006) (“EO 14”) on behalf of TCNJ Board of Trustee Member Charlotte Treby Williams (“Williams”), who is also a compensated Executive Vice President of Princeton University (“Princeton”).

EO 14 prohibits a member of a State college or university governing board from being employed by or deriving or receiving any compensation from a firm, association, or partnership that does business with the institution that the board member governs. The term “doing business with” is defined to mean “providing or receiving any goods or services or otherwise engaging in a transaction involving the exchange of anything of value.” Pursuant to paragraph 5 of EO 14, however, the State Ethics Commission is authorized to grant exceptions from this prohibition if “in the judgment of the Executive Director, the entity that is doing business with the institution is doing so pursuant to a contract awarded in accordance with the competitive bidding laws applicable to that institution or the public interest requires an exception to be made.”

APPLICATION

According to the information provided, TCNJ and Princeton share a close, collaborative academic relationship. This relationship also involves certain cost sharing arrangements or reimbursements that are made by TCNJ to Princeton for activities such as student banquets, rental of the Princeton gym track, payments to the Princeton library membership dues to a Higher Education Recruitment Consortium, and occasional payments by Princeton to TCNJ for students entitled to Princeton scholarships. The total monies exchanged between the universities for these activities over the last three years was less than \$30,000.

TCNJ benefits from the knowledge and expertise of Williams as a member of the TCNJ Board of Trustees as well as the ongoing collaborative relationship between the universities. Williams has had no involvement in any of the financial arrangements between TCNJ and Princeton, she has recused herself from all matters involving Princeton, she does not receive any personal benefit from the financial relationship between TCNJ and Princeton, and Princeton has neither sought nor received any improper financial benefit from TCNJ resulting from Williams’ service on the TCNJ Board of Trustees.

Based on the facts provided, it is in the public interest to grant an EO 14 exception to Williams.

DECISION

The Commission grants Williams an exception to the provisions of EO 14 permitting her to serve on the TCNJ Board of Trustees while TCNJ continues its ongoing business dealings with Princeton University involving payments for shared resources or other collaborative endeavors between the two universities.

Trustee Williams must continue to recuse herself from all matters involving Princeton University.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ON
THE 19TH DAY OF JULY, 2016