From: Cunningham, Jean
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2017 10:49 AM EDT
To: Healy, Paul; Edmondson, Amy
Subject: Re: Follow Up

Paul,

We hadn't yet done a methodical review. We had discussed that Ben's outreach about COI disclosures, and his activities, to the Dean's Office had been somewhat limited... limited to advance notice in advance of the publication of the airBnB piece, and perhaps 2 inquiries about the wording of particular conflict statements.

Again, to be fair to Ben, we haven't audited any faculty member for compliance with the policy (it's something Nitin and I have discussed, though). In looking now at what Ben has provided, I would say what I typically say to him: it likely is technically accurate, but he consistently either chooses language (1) so precise and so particularly phrased that it often raises more questions than it answers, or (2) so vague as to provide no information whatsoever; it's as if he's trying to tell the reader to be satisfied rather than providing the information for them to decide.

If nothing else, I'd note that Ben's disclosures, looked at as a whole, appear inconsistent.

All of this makes me wonder -- contrary to what I suggested yesterday -- whether this should be a more formal part of the process now... in other words, separately asking Ben to provide a narrative description of how he thought about the disclosure aspect on each of his publications (including blog postings), related to his outside activities listing.

Jean

On 8/25/17, 10:20 AM, "Healy, Paul" <phealy@hbs.edu> wrote:

Jean and Amy:

Did you observe that Ben's papers appropriately acknowledged his relation with Microsoft? I looked through some of his papers and saw one where there was such a statement, but others included no potential conflict of interest statement.

Paul