

Gifts and Gratuities

FIN-PUR-3.4



About This Policy

Effective Dates:

02-18-1992

Last Updated:

07-27-2016

Responsible University Administrator:

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Policy Contact:

Jill Schunk

Associate VP, Office of Procurement Services

jschunk@iu.edu

Scope

All University employees, including faculty and staff.

Policy Statement

Indiana University faculty and staff shall not engage in any activity paid for or provided by a supplier or potential supplier to the University, where the public perception of the activity may have the appearance of placing favor with the supplier, or where the employee sustains, or appears to sustain, personal gain by such participation. When employee participation in activities provided by a supplier of the University provides a greater overall benefit to the University than to the employee, the University should pay for the employee's participation.

Exceptions to this policy are general advertising tokens (small dollar items bearing the suppliers name or logo), as well as exceptions listed in the [HR Conflict of Interest policy](#). Additionally, from time to time, a circumstance may warrant that an activity or meal would be an exception to this policy as a part of a typical business meeting. The NAEP Code of Ethics, articulated in Policy 3.0, states that personal gifts or gratuities should be declined.

Reason For Policy

Gifts, paid invitations, entertainment, travel, room or housing, meals, transportation, and other such activity provided to an employee by a supplier may damage the reputation of the University. Activity of this nature may subvert the employee's judgment or create the perception that the employee, or the employee's family, is receiving personal gain by virtue of his or her position at the University and the relationship with a supplier.

Procedure

If an employee or an employee's family member receives a gift or supplier invitation which is contrary to this policy, the employee's immediate supervisor should be informed and the gift refused or returned to the sender, or the invitation declined with a letter indicating that the acceptance of such is contrary to University policy and practice. Should a questionable situation arise, the University employee shall contact his or her immediate supervisor or the Associate Vice President, University Procurement Services.

[Solicitation Process Procedures](#)

Definitions

Gratuity: Any gift, or invitation to entertainment venues, travel, room or housing, meals, transportation, and any other such action whereby the employee or family of the employee, sustain personal gain from its acceptance.

Personal Gain: Anything received and accepted, regardless of value, which is provided to an employee or family of the employee, by a supplier or potential supplier to Indiana University.

Supplier: any individual, company, corporation or other entity that provides goods or services to the University.

Sanctions

A University unit or the individual employee may be required to repay the vendor for the gift or gratuity. There may also be personal tax implications for the employee based on the value of the gratuity. Engaging in or permitting unethical or illegal conduct constitutes grounds for disciplinary action that may include disciplinary action up to and including denied or restricted access to the review of solicitation responses and other purchasing information, termination of employment and/or criminal prosecution.

Additional Contacts

General Questions	Purchasing Help Desk	N/A	purhelp@iu.edu
Gifts and Gratuities	Rob Halter, Exec. Dir., Purchasing	317-274-7746	rhalter@iu.edu
Gifts and Gratuities	Time Rice, Exec. Dir., Purchasing	812-855-5646	trice@iu.edu

History

Created on: February 18, 1992

Revised on: October 27, 2004; June 30, 2009; December 10, 2014

Last Reviewed: June, 2010

Related Information

[FIN-PUR-3.0, Purchasing Ethics](#)

[FIN-PUR-3.2, Reciprocity](#)

[HR-07-40, Conflicts of Interest](#)

[State Conflict of Interest for Procurement Transactions, FIN-PUR-3.3](#)

[Whistleblower Policy, UA-04](#)

[Indiana Code 35-44-1](#)

[Solicitation Process Procedures](#)