

Fwd: Your U-M inquiryRick Fitzgerald <rickfitz@umich.edu>

Tue 10/15/2019 10:37 AM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>Cc: Kim Broekhuizen <kelger@umich.edu>; Marla Gootee <mgootee@umich.edu>

1 attachments (23 KB)

Outlook-1487960586.png;

Adam:

To close to loop on this, here is the response we sent Sept. 17.

Kind regards,

Rick

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rick Fitzgerald** <rickfitz@umich.edu>

Date: Tue, Sep 17, 2019 at 12:03 PM

Subject: Your U-M inquiry

To: <Adam@openthebooks.com>Cc: presoff@umich.edu <PresOff@umich.edu>, Marla Gootee <mgootee@umich.edu>, Kim Broekhuizen <kelger@umich.edu>

Dear Mr. Andrzejewski:

Thank you for writing to the office of University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel regarding a report you plan to publish this week. President Schlissel has asked me to respond.

As I am sure you know, it is not at all uncommon for members of congress to be strong advocates for and supportive of the major institutions in their congressional districts or in their home states. The University of Michigan is a world-class institution of higher education. Both the main campus in Ann Arbor and the UM-Dearborn campus are within Rep. Debbie Dingell's district.

Rep. Dingell often participates in various ways at U-M, including, as you have noted, serving on the Ford School of Public Policy Committee and serving on the national advisory board for the U-M Depression Center.

You also note that your research has found that individual U-M employees are well represented as campaign contributors to Rep. Dingell.

U-M is one of the state's largest employers – with more than 50,000 employees across the state – and two of the three academic campuses, along with the Michigan Medicine main campus, are located within her district. Our employees are free to make personal campaign contributions to any elected official they may wish to support.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Michigan and best of luck with your forthcoming report.

Kind regards,

Rick Fitzgerald
Office of Public Affairs

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Date: September 13, 2019 at 5:04:18 PM EDT

To: "presoff@umich.edu" <presoff@umich.edu>, "saraholl@umich.edu" <saraholl@umich.edu>, "erikah@umich.edu" <erikah@umich.edu>, "lizbary@umich.edu" <lizbary@umich.edu>Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENT -- OpenTheBooks.com Oversight Report

University of Michigan:

I am the CEO & Founder of OpenTheBooks.com and my deadline for a response is Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 12p.m. EST. Publishing next week is an oversight report regarding Members of Congress soliciting campaign donations from federal contractors based in their district.

Please respond or provide context to the following questions:

1. Are you aware of or have any knowledge that Rep. Debbie Dingell ever recommended, provided background, wrote a memo, or provided any other communications including but not limited to grant requests, funding priority, letter marks, phone marks, or earmark request letters with congressional leadership, committee staff, etc., the administration, or any federal department, agency, sub-agency, or division on behalf of the University of Michigan (UM) or its subdivisions?
2. UM benefits from federal contracts, grants, sub-grants, and direct payments. UM has campuses in Dingell's congressional district. UM executives, key employees, and affiliates, collectively, are the all-time #1 campaign contributor to Ms. Dingell. Dingell is a member of your prestigious Ford School of Public Policy Committee and listed as a board adviser to the UM Depression Center. Please give comment or context specific to your relationship with Rep. Dingell and any ethical or conflict of interest issues.

This is a request for comment. We appreciate any feedback, context, or background that you can provide.

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Rick Fitzgerald,
Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs
Office of the Vice President for Communications

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