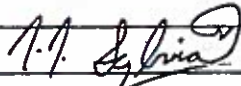


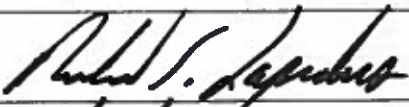
**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

2020 JAN 29 AM 11:10

	STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name:	J.J. Sylvia IV
Title or Position:	Assistant Professor of Communications Media
State Agency:	Fitchburg State University
Agency Address:	160 Pearl St, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Office Phone:	978-665-3418
Office E-mail:	jsylvia3@fitchburgstate.edu
	My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.
	PARTICULAR MATTER
Particular matter E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding.	Please describe the particular matter. I am assigning the chapter, "False Information Narratives: The IRA's 2016 Presidential Election Facebook Campaign," in my HON 1020 Current Events and Service Learning course. This is a chapter co-authored with my colleague Dr. Kyle Moody, which appears in a larger edited collection titled <i>Handbook of Research on Deception, Fake News, and Misinformation Online</i> . Under educational fair use laws, I am making this one chapter from the collection available to the students for free as part of their assigned reading in the course. I will not be making any money from assigning this article and students will not have to pay anything to access it. I have never received compensation for this publication.
Your required participation in the particular matter: E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other.	I am seeking approval for including this material.
	FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER
Write an X by all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> My business partner has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> I am an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee of a business organization, and the business organization has a financial interest in the matter. <input type="checkbox"/> I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter.

Financial interest in the matter	Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it. I have no financial interest in this matter (\$0.00).
Employee signature:	
Date:	1/15/2020

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

	APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION
Name of Appointing Authority:	Richard S. Lapidus
Title or Position:	President
Agency/Department:	Fitchburg State University
Agency Address:	160 Pearl Street
Office Phone:	978-665-3421
Office E-mail	rlapidus@fitchburgstateuniversity.edu
	DETERMINATION
Determination by appointing authority: Write an X by your selection.	<p>As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee.</p>
Appointing Authority signature:	
Date:	1/21/2020
Comment:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108