Conflict-of-Interest Statement for MSOM Awards Committees
Statement adopted at 2008 MSOM Business Meeting, INFORMS Conference, Washington DC. Adapted from INFORMS Society statement for all INFORMS awards.

It is important to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest in the evaluation of any submission to an award committee. A problem arises when any member of an award committee has a past or current relationship with a nominee that might influence the voting process (positively or negatively) for reasons other than the merits of the case relative to the award. It is the responsibility of each committee member to bring to the attention of the committee chair any relationship that might be viewed as a conflict of interest. The committee chair should evaluate each case on its merits, and if a potential conflict is deemed to exist, propose a response that ensures that the final decision of the committee is free of any apparent conflict. On large award committees that have to judge many nominees, it is acceptable for a judge with an acknowledged conflict with a nominee to participate in preliminary screening, but if that nominee survives the screening phase, then the judge with the conflict must be excused from further participation. If the potential conflict involves the committee chair, the chair should discuss this with the president to determine an appropriate response.

In general, a committee chair should decline the office if he/she believes a priori that a highly likely recipient is someone they have a conflict of interest with. Students of the chair of the MSOM student paper competition are not eligible to submit to the competition and the chair should decline the office if he/she believes this is likely to cause a conflict. The committee chair is welcome to consult the president on any question of potential appearance of conflict of interest, not just a conflict involving the chair. Discussion should also include the president-elect if the prize deliberations are likely to cross officers' terms.