

# MEMORANDUM

November 7, 1995

To: David G. Marwell, Executive Director  
T. Jeremy Gunn, General Counsel

From: Dennis J. Quinn, Designated Agency Ethics Officer

Subject: Ethics Opinion Concerning Dr. William Joyce's Participation in Review Board Issues  
Involving Princeton University

## I. Summary

At your request, I have reviewed the applicable ethical provisions concerning the degree to which Dr. Joyce may participate in ARRB matters dealing with the Princeton University Library, as well as other libraries. As I understand it, the Review Board may be interested in reviewing certain papers that have been deeded or deposited with the library. If it is determined that these papers contain assassination records, the Review Board would be obligated to obtain the records for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection. The Princeton Library, on the other hand, may have legal and or ethical reasons that prevent it from releasing these papers. As the Director of the University Library and a member of the Review Board, Dr. Joyce is faced with an obvious conflict of interests.

This circumstances of this situation are such that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts could question Dr. Joyce's impartiality in this matter. Therefore, he should not participate in any voting or discussions dealing with the Review Board's interest in the papers or records located at Princeton University Library.

## II. Discussion

The Standards of Ethical Conduct require that Federal employees be impartial in performing their official duties.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 5 C.F.R. § 2635.501-502