

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the IFO Political Action Committee Fund (Inter Faculty Organization) (30308);

1. The IFO Political Action Committee Fund (Inter Faculty Organization) (IFO PAC Fund) is a political fund. The Isaacson (Jason) for SD 42 committee is the principal campaign committee of Senator Jason Isaacson. The Isaacson committee's 2019 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed contributions of \$100 received in early January of 2019 and \$1,000 received in early August of 2019 from the IFO PAC Fund. The total amount contributed by the IFO PAC Fund exceeded the individual contribution limit during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment, which for a candidate for state senator was \$1,000. The Isaacson committee's 2019 year-end report also disclosed that the committee refunded \$100 to the IFO PAC Fund in late December of 2019. The amount that the fund contributed in excess of the contribution limit was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The IFO PAC Fund's treasurer, Donna Blake, explained that the Inter Faculty's Organization's registered lobbyist issued the \$1,000 contribution without realizing that \$100 had been already been given in the same election cycle segment. Ms. Blake stated that she did not catch the error when recording the \$1,000 contribution and the oversight was first discovered by the Isaacson committee at the end of 2019.
3. Ms. Blake provided documentation showing that the IFO PAC Fund deposited a check refunding the \$100 excess in January 2020.
4. The parties agree that the IFO PAC Fund made contributions in excess of the individual contribution limit in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the fund's third violation of the individual contribution limit since a penalty was established for giving excessive contributions in 2002. The fund exceeded the individual contribution limit by \$100 with respect to one candidate in 2004 and by \$100 with respect to a different candidate in 2008.
5. To avoid similar violations in the future, the fund agrees that it will ensure that its treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 30 days of being made.
6. The IFO PAC Fund agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$300, three times the amount of the violation, for making contributions in excess of the individual contribution limit. Of this amount, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$200 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the fund violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2023, the

outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the fund does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. The IFO PAC Fund agrees to file amended 2019 and 2020 year-end reports within 10 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties showing that a \$100 contribution was made to the Isaacson committee in 2019 and that \$100 was later refunded by the Isaacson committee.

8. If the fund does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Donna Blake \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: August 16, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Blake, Treasurer  
IFO Political Action Committee Fund (Inter Faculty Organization)

/s/ Stephen Swanson \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: July 28, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Swanson, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board