


March 21, 2011

TO: Jennifer Wilson, Executive Director
Human Resources

FROM: Rebecca LeDocq, Chair 
Faculty Senate

RE: Outside Activities Statement

At its October 31, 2002 meeting the Faculty Senate reviewed a report from the Ethics Advisory Committee concerning the reporting of outside activities by members of the faculty. The reporting requirements arise out of UW-System and UW-La Crosse Chapter 8 policies. The discussion at that meeting indicated that the Faculty Senate takes a serious view of these requirements and considers it an essential responsibility of the faculty to ensure governance within their ranks in this matter. As a result the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the attached statement and resolution.

The enclosed Annual Activities Reporting form included with this letter addresses the requirements of section 8.025. Faculty who are engaged in outside activities that may produce a conflict with his or her public responsibilities should familiarize themselves with the requirements of Chapter 8, in particular those sections defining conflict of interests, the role of the Institutional Ethics Committee (8.035), the actions to avoid possible conflict of interests (8.04) and the potential sanctions for violating the policy (8.05).

jjg
Enclosure

The Faculty Senate recognizes that

1. UWS 8 and UWL 8 articulate a policy that members of the unclassified staff retain their rights as citizens to interests of a personal or economic nature and prohibits a member of the unclassified staff from engaging only in those activities that conflict with his or her public responsibilities.
2. The required annual reporting form satisfies the requirements of section UWS 8.025 and requires members of the unclassified staff to disclose specific activities or relationships.
3. Members of the unclassified staff are required to immediately report significant changes to his or her outside activities and under certain circumstances take action to avoid possible conflicts of interest.
4. Section UWL 8.025 articulates a standard of when campus absence to engage in outside activities becomes a conflict of interest between a members personal and public responsibilities.
5. Any person may file a written complaint charging a violation of this chapter for investigation by the Chancellor.
6. The programs and activities of academic departments are the first to suffer from the abuse of these policies.

Under the principle that it is the responsibility of the faculty to ensure governance within their ranks, the Faculty Senate resolves that

1. Orientation sessions for new faculty and department chairs include information on UWS 8 and UWL 8.
2. The distribution of the Annual Activities Report will be accompanied by a cover letter from the Faculty Senate Chair outlining the purpose of the reporting form, the additional reporting obligations incumbent upon faculty, the role of the Ethics Advisory Committee and the principle that faculty must govern themselves in this matter.
3. The Provost will be asked to investigate and if feasible implement a mechanism for disseminating summary information derived from the Annual Activities Report for the purpose of informing faculty on the nature and extent of activities reported by their peers.
4. This action of the Faculty Senate will be communicated to all academic departments.