

Policy on Outside Professional Activities

Department of Philosophy

September 4, 2002

Introduction:

In accordance with the University Policy on Outside Professional Activities, this policy implements an annual reporting format for faculty in the Department of Philosophy in regard to possible conflicts of interest or conflicts of commitment.

Compensation as well as unpaid outside professional activities are generally encouraged as long as they do not constitute a conflict of interest and as long as they do not seriously compromise the ability of faculty members to perform their duties. Prior approval for outside activities is not generally required except under the special circumstances defined below. Annual reporting of compensated activities extends only to the kind of activity, not to the amount of income generated by it.

Along with the annual activities report, each faculty member shall submit an Outside Professional Activities Report (see the appropriate form).

Definitions:

Faculty—all administrators holding academic appointments and all professors, associate professors, assistant professors, full-time academic instructors and full time lecturers who are not degree candidates at the University of South Carolina.

Immediate Family—an individual’s spouse, children, parents, and/or other members of the individual’s household.

University Committee—the University Committee on Conflict of Interest.

Conflict of Interest—any activity outside the University which would substantially direct Departmental resources towards purposes which are not germane to the mission of the Department; also, any outside activity, which may produce financial gain in virtue of an association with the University or the Philosophy Department.

Conflict of Commitment—any activity, which prevents faculty members to meet their current obligations in the areas of teaching, counseling and advisement (office hours), and service (Departmental and University committees).

What Should and Should Not Be Reported:

Outside professional activities to be reported should *not* normally include colloquia, textbooks, paintings, and performances, and generally those activities that bear directly on considerations concerning tenure and promotion in the Department. Special attention should be given to compensated services, private practice or for profit activities.

Items that should be reported (so long as they fall outside normal T and P items) include:

Contract with any private sector entity (individual, business, or corporation), ownership of equity holding in a business or corporation, management or board position in a business or corporation;

Participation in a service or teaching contract with another college or university;

Academic remuneration noted as fees and honoraria;

Unpaid consulting/pro bono service.

A potential conflict of interest arises in situations such as the following:

Managerial roles or financial interests by faculty members or their immediate family in companies in the faculty member's field of research;

Employment of a graduate assistant for non-research and non-University related work; substantial use of clerical resources (telephone, postage, xeroxing, secretarial) for non-University related work.

A potential conflict of commitment arises if a particular activity prevents a faculty member from teaching and holding office hours for a total of more than one week during an academic term.

Prior Authorization & Procedure:

Whenever a potential conflict of interest or commitment foreseeably arises, the faculty member needs to seek clearance from the Departmental Chair. Clearance will be granted if the Chair determines that there is no conflict of interest or that sufficient provisions have been made to alleviate the potential conflict of commitment.

If the Department Chair is unable to arrive at a determination on a conflict of interest issue, he or she will refer the matter to the University Committee. If clearance was obtained, this should be noted in the appropriate sections on the annual reporting form. It is understood that all activities (cleared or not) are subject to review by the University Committee. If the Department Chair refers a matter to the University Committee, or if the faculty members file an appeal of the Department Chair's decision with the University Committee, the presumption shall be in favor of the faculty member's proceeding with their activities until a final determination has been reached.