Consulting Privileges – Current WUSM Policy

Approved by Executive Faculty: April 4, 2000

The University has adopted the following policy regarding consulting by faculty:

In common with most academic institutions, Washington University permits faculty members in most of its schools to engage in a reasonable amount of external professional activity that may be compensated from external sources.

The University does not concern itself with the amount of external compensation the faculty member receives for consulting services, but it is of course a legitimate concern of the University: that excessive amounts of time are not taken away from normal University duties; that material conflicts of interest arising from the faculty member's personally-compensated, external professional activities ("personal external activities") are avoided or appropriately managed; and that such personal external activities do not inadvertently create University obligations to third parties.

The Washington University policy is that faculty members may engage in such personal external activities up to an average of one day per week, so long as those personal external activities: comport with the Conflict of Interest Policy; do not inadvertently create institutional obligations to third parties; and do not interfere with the faculty member's discharge of his/her duties to the University in clinical practice, research, teaching and/or administration. In this connection, it is not permissible for a faculty member to use the day per week permitted for external consulting to generate additional personal compensation derived from clinical care. In all cases, the faculty member's department head shall have sole discretion to determine if the faculty member's personal external activities unduly interfere with any of their University duties.

There will be occasions when it is considered desirable for a faculty member to engage more extensively in external activities. A part-time or full leave of absence, with corresponding reduction in University duties is then appropriate. So long as the University is willing to extend the leave of absence, there is no necessary alteration of tenure status. But where a faculty member wishes to continue substantial involvement (i.e., more than one day per week) in external activities beyond the period over which the University will extend a leave-of-absence, he/she may do so by resigning his/her tenure.