

Message sent on behalf of Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Please note that a copy of this memo is sent out with paychecks today (3/21/08).



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M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Faculty and Staff
From: Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
Subject: Amherst Campus Policies
Date: March 3, 2008

The University annually informs employees of specific policies of the Board of Trustees that relate to our business conduct. These policies include the following:

- Policy of Fraudulent Financial Activities (Doc. T00-051)
<http://www.umass.edu/aco/fraudpolicy.htm>

➔ Please review the attached Amherst campus guidelines and note that failure to report vacation, sick or personal time as it is used is considered a form of fraud.

- Principles of Employee Conduct (Doc. T96-136, as amended)
<http://media.umassp.edu/massedu/policy/PersonnelEmpConduct.pdf>
- State Conflict of Interest Law provisions of Chapter 268A
<http://www.mass.gov/ethics/web268A.htm>
- “Whistleblowing” Legislation
<http://www.umass.edu/aco/Whistleblowing.pdf>
- Drug Free Workplace Act

The University of Massachusetts Amherst, in accordance with both federal legislation and existing University policy, is committed to providing a drug-free, healthful, and safe environment for all faculty, staff and students. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance, and the unauthorized possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the Amherst campus or as part of any University activity or business off University premises is prohibited. If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, expulsion of students, and referral for prosecution may result as deemed appropriate. Applicable legal sanctions for the unlawful possession or distribution of drugs and alcohol and additional information about the Drug Free Workplace Act are summarized at:

http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct/drug_free.htm

- University Data and Computing Policies and Guidelines (Doc. T97-010, as amended)
<http://media.umassp.edu/massedu/policy/AcceptableUseSummary.pdf>

Please contact the Amherst Campus Controller’s Office at 545-0806 if you need hard copies of the above referenced policies or have any questions about the material contained therein. Thank you.

May 14, 2002

University of Massachusetts/Amherst Guidelines for the Policy on Fraudulent Financial Activities

The Board of Trustees has issued a Policy Statement on Fraudulent Financial Activities (Doc. T00-051, adopted August 2, 2000). Described herein are the steps to be taken when fraud, misappropriation, or similar dishonest activities are suspected. The Policy Statement is available at <http://media.umassp.edu/massedu/policy/FiscalFraudulantFinAct.pdf>.

Scope and Definition of Fraud

Fraud generally involves a willful or deliberate act with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit, such as money or property, by deception or other unethical means. All fraudulent acts are included under this policy and include such things as:

- Embezzlement, misappropriation or other financial irregularities
- Forgery or alteration of documents (checks, time sheets, contractor agreements, purchase orders, other financial documents, electronic files)
- Improperities in the handling or reporting of money or financial transactions
- Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, inventory, or any other asset (including furniture, fixtures or equipment)
- Authorizing or receiving payment for goods not received or services not performed
- Authorizing or receiving payments for hours not worked

General Protocol – Reporting Procedure

Anyone who believes fraud has occurred should report such incident. Employees are protected under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 149, section 185, from retaliatory actions by the employer.

Use the channel of communication with which you are most comfortable. Accordingly, you may report your concerns to your immediate supervisor, department head, campus controller, vice-chancellor, chancellor and/or directly to the university auditor's office or the campus police department.

Immediate supervisors, department heads, campus controller, vice-chancellors, and chancellor for the Amherst campus must report all apparent cases of fraud brought to their attention to the university auditor's office, and if appropriate, to the campus police department.

Responsibilities

University administrators and all levels of management are responsible for establishing and maintaining proper internal controls that provide security and accountability for the resources entrusted to them. Administrators should be familiar with the risks and exposures inherent in their areas of responsibility and be alert for any indications of improper activities, misappropriation, or dishonest activity.

Responsibilities of management and non-managerial staff for handling fraudulent activities include the following:

- Insure that notification promptly reaches the university auditor's office, and if, appropriate the campus police department. Refer to "General Protocol – Reporting Procedure".
- If the situation warrants immediate action – for example, obvious theft has taken place, security is at risk, or immediate recovery is possible – management and non-managerial staff receiving reports should immediately contact the campus police department.
- Do not contact the suspected individual to determine facts or demand restitution. Under no circumstances should there be any reference to "what you did", "the crime", "the fraud", "the forgery", "the misappropriation", etc.
- Managers should consult with the campus human resources department and university counsel to determine if any immediate personnel actions are necessary.
- *Do not discuss the case, facts, suspicions, or allegations with anyone*, unless specifically directed to do so by the university counsel, campus police, human resources, or the university auditor's office.
- Direct all inquiries from any suspected individual, his or her representative, or his or her attorney to the university general counsel. Direct all inquiries from the media to the campus news office.

Great care must be taken in dealing with suspected fraudulent activities to avoid any incorrect accusations, alerting suspected individuals that an investigation is under way, violating any person's right to due process, or making statements that could lead to claims of false accusation or other civil rights violations.

The university auditor's office may investigate any suspected dishonest or fraudulent activity, which, in its opinion, may represent risk of significant loss of assets or reputation to the university. The university auditor's office may work with internal or external departments, such as the university general counsel's office, and campus human resources department, campus police department, Amherst campus controller's office and commonwealth law enforcement agencies, as circumstances may require. *The University auditor's office is available and receptive to receiving relevant information on a confidential basis and may be contacted directly whenever a fraudulent activity is suspected.*

Campus management will support the university's responsibilities and will cooperate with the university auditor's office and law enforcement agencies in the detection, reporting, and investigation of fraudulent acts, including prosecution of offenders. The university auditor's office has full, free and unrestricted access to all records and personnel of the university. Every effort should be made to effect recovery of University losses from responsible parties or through University insurance coverage.

The university auditor's office will review the results of any investigations with responsible management and cognizant administrators as necessary, making recommendations for improvement to the systems of internal control.

Non-Fraud Irregularities

Identification or allegations of acts outside the scope of this policy, such as personal improprieties or irregularities, whether moral, ethical, or behavioral, safety or work environment related, or complaints of discrimination or sexual harassment, should be resolved by the respective area management in conjunction with human resources and/or reference to any other existing university guidance or resource. Examples include the scholarly and research misconduct policy, the principles of employee conduct, the policy against intolerance, the sexual harassment policy, and the MGL Chapter 268A conflict of interest law (this list is not all-inclusive). The campus ombuds office or equal opportunity office may also be of assistance.