

November 16, 2010

Dr. Dan Howard

Interim Chancellor

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

Dear Dan;

I was disturbed to hear that my current work as a consultant to Academic Partnerships and with American University System is perceived by some to be a conflict of interest. I know that ASU legal counsel has determined that it is not a conflict, and I also know that my work outside the university is exactly the same as what other faculty members at ASU are now doing and have always done. In fact, many university employees, faculty and staff, are also gainfully employed elsewhere, sometimes with companies with which the university does business, so my situation is not different from other current practices.

You also know that I have reported on my activities and have made straightforward and factual declarations of my association with Academic Partnerships and American University System. I was forthright before I left the presidency that I would be working with online education because I think it is critical for the next generation of learners. My current university assignment gives me specific allowance to be engaged with development of online education.

I have focused my efforts with these companies and ASU in order to provide benefit to students and to the university. ASU has seen success from these efforts, as over 2,000 students have enrolled in ASU online degree offerings supported by Academic Partnerships, about 20% of your total enrollment, and the university has realized over \$500,000 in revenues it would not have had were it not from these degree offerings marketed by Academic Partnerships. I daresay that ASU could not have produced these outcomes by itself. ASU has indicated that it wants to put additional degree offerings online, to be marketed by Academic Partnerships and American University System, so that many more students, domestically and internationally, may have access to the high quality teaching organized and delivered by ASU faculty. Through this participation, ASU faculty members are showing that they are sensitive to the interests and life circumstances of students, they are not afraid of using new technologies, and they are not fearful of change.

I am proud to be identified with Academic Partnerships and American University System, and I respect the values and professionalism of my colleagues here. I fully expect we will continue to promote the ASU online degrees to new students in new markets; develop the potential enrollment at ASU of highly

qualified international students from Asia; market ASU degrees to employees of businesses and corporations around the world; and add more ASU degrees as they are developed on your campus to the online inventory of degrees marketed by Academic Partnerships.

But in order to avoid jeopardizing the relationship between ASU and Academic Partnerships, please accept my request for an unpaid leave of absence from my ASU faculty appointment which is scheduled to begin in January, 2011. Instead of stepping into the faculty role next year, I ask to defer that reentry to sometime in the future when I will be able to devote my full time to it. Even though a member of the faculty (as I would be) has no authority for contractual and financial decisions made by the administration, by deferring this opportunity, I hope that I will put an end to speculation about my motives and make clear that I am standing for the university's best interests.

Until I do elect to return to the faculty role, I intend to enjoy an association with the university which was granted through my appointment as President Emeritus, and I will still be on campus from time to time to see new growth of some seeds I planted. And I will always be grateful to have been, and to continue being, a part of Arkansas State University. I wish only the very best for the future of Arkansas State University and its students, staff and faculty.

You are welcome to share this letter with others, as you feel appropriate. Thank you for your leadership and the many courtesies you have extended to me.

Very sincerely,

Leslie Wyatt

ASU President Emeritus

XC: Mrs. Florine Milligan

Dr. Robert Potts