Personnel Welfare Committee 2006-2007

Bowling Green State University - Administrative Staff Council

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Notes

1. Colored Ink
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PWC/ASC Goals for 2007

1. Salary Increase

2. Changing the Compensatory Time statement in the Handbook and also changing the title for the new statement. [Latest revision attached]

3. Take a position on the Rewards Policy

4. Help define the function of the Ombudsperson by submitting a “role statement” for institutional review and approval

5. Review full compensation at peer institutions, especially non-salary compensation
   - Maximum vacation and sick leave accrual and maximum amount paid at retirement.
   - Wellness programs
   - Tuition fee waiver
   - Other insurances
   - Hospitalization program and coverages

6. Continued implementation of the Mercer Compensation plan
   - Insure all administrative staff receive annual evaluations by creating an evaluation oversight process to contact first and second level supervisors of AS who have not been evaluated. ASC is willing to assist HR in following up with these supervisors until evaluations are completed.

   Develop a phased plan for having AS penetrate their salary range so they may achieve the 50% point in their range, defined as the competitive market reference point.

7. Develop a sick leave bank to be used for serious or catastrophic illness.

8. Discounts for university staff for on campus food purchases

9. Review and update the non-compensation conciliation policy to better serve the resolution of performance expectations and relationships between employees and supervisors.
Dave,

Here is the discussion we had today as I remember it with regards to the Goals and the Comp meeting:

6. Implementation of Mercer is a large complex topic. We need to show the administration steps that will get us to implementation over time such as ASC being the 'paper police' for HR to check off who has been evaluated and send memos to individuals who have not been evaluated, their direct supervisor and their supervisor's supervisor.

Add sick leave bank as a goal.

Add: Equal treatment of all three constituent groups in any salary increase.

Add: Faculty and Classified Staff both have a grievance policy and administrative staff needs to have one as well.

Classified staff meets with the Compensation Committee monthly. Administrative staff would like to be more involved in the budget process. We would like to meet again with the Compensation Committee at least one more time before the usual march meeting so we can discuss issues before they are already decided.

Exec mentioned maybe having short term goals and long term goals. Also to prepare for the next Compensation a set of humanistic examples illustrating why a sick leave bank is so necessary and would have positive impact on the University community. Why resolving issues before there is real conflict is good for the institution.

They also suggested that if we met with the Comp committee more often, they might realize that they continually say no to everything we ask. We would have a record of what we are asking for since our memory is short as a council; we might learn why they continue to say no and what we can do to change that.

They wondered why food discounts were on the list and sick leave bank was not.
VP Compensation Meeting 4/12/06 Synopsis

1. Salary Increase - 4%, expected to be split as 1% salary increase and 1% merit.

2. Full Implementation of Merit System – notice of evaluations due will be e-mailed.


4. Accrued vacation – revisit in October.

5. Personal Leave - research costs of those with 1-3 years in service.


7. Interim and Acting Positions - Research other institutions.

8. Long Term Goals -
   a) health care benefits for part-time - research costs.
   b) communicate vacation accruals - work with HR to inform supervisors and staff.
   c) create a sick leave bank – in progress.
   d) explore wellness programs – collaboration between HR and ASC.
PWC/ASC Goals for 2007

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6. Continued implementation of the Mercer Compensation plan

7. Annual evaluation for all administrative staff

8. Discounts for university staff for on campus food purchases
TO: All Administrative Staff and Supervisors of Administrative Staff
FROM: Rebecca C. Ferguson, Assistant Vice President
DATE: May 16, 2005
SUBJECT: Fair Labor Standards Act Policy on Deductions from Salaries

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is a federal law that requires most employees in the United States be paid at least the federal minimum wage for all hours worked and overtime pay at time and one-half the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

The FLSA, however, provides an exemption from both minimum wage and overtime pay for employees who are employed as bona fide executive, administrative, or professional personnel, or as certain computer employees performing very specialized work. The employees classified in one or more of these categories are referred to as “exempt” employees. The rules for determining whether any of these exemptions apply to a particular job are very complex, and any questions you may have regarding the classification of your job should be addressed to Rebecca Ferguson, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, at 419-372-2259.

**Salary Basis Requirement**

Generally, “exempt” employees must be paid on a “salary basis”. This means that the employee regularly receives a predetermined amount of compensation each pay period. Except as listed below, an exempt employee must receive the full salary for any workweek in which the employee performs any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked.

**Circumstances In Which the University Will Make Deductions From Pay**

Deductions from pay will be made:

1. when an exempt employee is absent from work on an approved form of leave. The practice of taking deductions for less than a full day, also known as partial day docking, may continue as necessary to comply with state required principles of public accountability, as implemented through departmental practice;

2. to offset the amount an exempt employee receives as jury or witness fees or for temporary military duty but that is not paid over to the University, in accordance with University policy, for the receipt of full pay by the University; or
Fair Labor Standards Act Policy on Deductions from Salaries
May 16, 2005
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3. for unpaid disciplinary suspensions of one or more full days imposed for a violation of the University's policies or rules dealing with conduct.

In addition to the foregoing three exceptions, the University will not pay full salary in the initial or terminal week of employment, if less than a full workweek; for penalties imposed in good faith for infractions of safety rules of major significance, or for weeks in which an exempt employee takes unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act. In these circumstances, either partial day or full day deductions may be made.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

It is our policy to comply with the salary basis requirements of the FLSA. Therefore, the University prohibits all managers from making any improper deductions from the salaries of exempt employees. Exempt employees are to be made aware of this policy and that the University does not allow deductions that violate the FLSA.

This FLSA does not replace other University policies or practices regarding unauthorized absences for work, excessive absenteeism or tardiness, or failure to obey management direction relating to the timeliness of work. Violations of these policies shall remain appropriate grounds for the imposition of discipline in accordance with established University procedures.

WHAT TO DO IF AN IMPROPER DEDUCTION OCCURS

If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your salary, you should immediately report this information to your immediate supervisor, or to Rebecca Ferguson, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources. Reports of improper deductions will be promptly investigated. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, you will be promptly reimbursed for an improper deduction made.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective immediately.
Fact Sheet #17C: Exemption for Administrative Employees Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

This fact sheet provides general information on the exemption from minimum wage and overtime pay provided by Section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act as defined by Regulations, 29 CFR Part 541.

The FLSA requires that most employees in the United States be paid at least the federal minimum wage for all hours worked and overtime pay at time and one-half the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

However, Section 13(a)(1) of the FLSA provides an exemption from both minimum wage and overtime pay for employees employed as bona fide executive, administrative, professional and outside sales employees. Section 13(a)(1) and Section 13(a)(17) also exempt certain computer employees. To qualify for exemption, employees generally must meet certain tests regarding their job duties and be paid on a salary basis at not less than $455 per week. Job titles do not determine exempt status. In order for an exemption to apply, an employee's specific job duties and salary must meet all the requirements of the Department's regulations.

See other fact sheets in this series for more information on the exemptions for executive, professional, computer, and outside sales employees, and for more information on the salary basis requirement.

Administrative Exemption

To qualify for the administrative employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:

- The employee must be compensated on a salary or fee basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week;
- The employee's primary duty must be the performance of office or non-manual work directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer or the employer's customers; and
- The employee's primary duty includes the exercise of discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.

Primary Duty

"Primary duty" means the principal, main, major or most important duty that the employee performs. Determination of an employee's primary duty must be based on all the facts in a particular case, with the major emphasis on the character of the employee's job as a whole.

Directly Related to Management or General Business Operations

To meet the "directly related to management or general business operations" requirement, an employee must perform work directly related to assisting with the running or servicing of the business, as distinguished, for example from working on a manufacturing production line or selling a product in a retail or service establishment. Work "directly related to management or general business operations" includes, but is not limited to, work in functional areas such as tax; finance; accounting; budgeting; auditing; insurance; quality control; purchasing; procurement; advertising; marketing; research; safety and health; personnel management; human resources; employee benefits; labor relations; public relations; government relations; computer network; Internet and database administration; legal and regulatory compliance; and similar activities.

Employer's Customers

An employee may qualify for the administrative exemption if the employee's primary duty is the performance of work directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer's customers. Thus, employees acting as advisors or consultants to their employer's clients or customers — as tax experts or financial consultants, for example — may be exempt.
Discretion and Independent Judgment

In general, the exercise of discretion and independent judgment involves the comparison and the evaluation of possible courses of conduct and acting or making a decision after the various possibilities have been considered. The term must be applied in the light of all the facts involved in the employee's particular employment situation, and implies that the employee has authority to make an independent choice, free from immediate direction or supervision. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: whether the employee has authority to formulate, affect, interpret, or implement management policies or operating practices; whether the employee carries out major assignments in conducting the operations of the business; whether the employee performs work that affects business operations to a substantial degree; whether the employee has authority to commit the employer in matters that have significant financial impact; whether the employee has authority to waive or deviate from established policies and procedures without prior approval, and other factors set forth in the regulation. The fact that an employee's decisions are revised or reversed after review does not mean that the employee is not exercising discretion and independent judgment. The exercise of discretion and independent judgment must be more than the use of skill in applying well-established techniques, procedures or specific standards described in manuals or other sources.

Matters of Significance

The term "matters of significance" refers to the level of importance or consequence of the work performed. An employee does not exercise discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance merely because the employer will experience financial losses if the employee fails to perform the job properly. Similarly, an employee who operates very expensive equipment does not exercise discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance merely because improper performance of the employee's duties may cause serious financial loss to the employer.

Educational Establishments and Administrative Functions

The administrative exemption is also available to employees compensated on a salary or fee basis at a rate not less than $155 a week, or on a salary basis which is at least equal to the entrance salary for teachers in the same educational establishment, and whose primary duty is performing administrative functions directly related to academic instruction or training in an educational establishment. Academic administrative functions include operations directly in the field of education, and do not include jobs relating to areas outside the educational field. Employees engaged in academic administrative functions include: the superintendent or other head of an elementary or secondary school system, and any assistants responsible for administration of such matters as curriculum, quality and methods of instructing, measuring and testing the learning potential and achievement of students, establishing and maintaining academic and grading standards, and other aspects of the teaching program; the principal and any vice-principals responsible for the operation of an elementary or secondary school; department heads in institutions of higher education responsible for the various subject matter departments; academic counselors and other employees with similar responsibilities. Having a primary duty of performing administrative functions directly related to academic instruction or training in an educational establishment includes, by its very nature, exercising discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.

Highly Compensated Employees

Highly compensated employees performing office or non-manual work and paid total annual compensation of $100,000 or more (which must include at least $155 per week paid on a salary or fee basis) are exempt from the FLSA if they customarily and regularly perform at least one of the duties of an exempt executive, administrative or professional employee identified in the standard tests for exemption.

Where to Obtain Additional Information

The Department of Labor provides the information to enhance public access to information on its programs. This publication is for general information and is not to be considered in the same light as official statements of position contained in the regulations.

For more information regarding the FLSA, visit the Wage and Hour Division's Web site at www.wagehour.dol.gov or call our toll-free help line, available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in your time zone, at 1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243).

Copies of Wage and Hour publications also may be obtained from any office of the Wage and Hour Division. To locate the nearest Wage and Hour Division office, telephone the toll-free help line or visit our Web site for a complete listing of offices.

When the state laws differ from the federal FLSA, an employer must comply with the standard most protective to employees. Links to your state labor department can be found at www.dol.gov/esa/contacts/state_of.htm.
Fact Sheet #22: Hours Worked Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

This fact sheet provides general information concerning what constitutes compensable time under the FLSA. The Act requires that employees must receive at least the minimum wage and may not be employed for more than 40 hours in a week without receiving at least one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for the overtime hours. The amount of travel cannot be determined without knowing the number of hours worked.

Definition of "Employ"

By statutory definition the term "employ" includes "to suffer or permit to work." The workweek ordinarily includes all time during which an employee is necessarily required to be on the employer's premises, on duty or at a prescribed work place. "Workday", in general, means the period between the time on any particular day when such employee commences his/her "principal activity" and the time on that day at which he/she ceases such principal activity or activities. The workday may therefore be longer than the employee's scheduled shift, hours, tour of duty, or production line time.

Application of Principles

Employees "Suffered or Permitted" to work: Work not requested but suffered or permitted to be performed is work time that must be paid for by the employer. For example, an employee may voluntarily continue to work at the end of the shift to finish an assigned task or to correct errors. The reason is immaterial. The hours are work time and are compensable.

Waiting Time: Whether waiting time is hours worked under the Act depends upon the particular circumstances. Generally, the facts may show that the employee was engaged to wait (which is work time) or the facts may show that the employee was waiting to be engaged (which is not work time). For example, a secretary who reads a book while waiting for dictation or a fireman who plays checkers while waiting for an alarm is working during such periods of inactivity. These employees have been "engaged to wait."

On-Call Time: An employee who is required to remain on call on the employer's premises is working while "on call." An employee who is required to remain on call at home, or who is allowed to leave a message where he/she can be reached, is not working (in most cases) while on call. Additional constraints on the employee's freedom could require this time to be compensated.

Rest and Meal Periods: Rest periods of short duration, usually 20 minutes or less, are common in industry (and promote the efficiency of the employees) and are customarily paid for as working time. These short periods must be counted as hours worked. Unauthorized extensions of authorized work breaks need not be counted as hours worked when the employer has expressly and unambiguously communicated to the employee that the authorized break may only last for a specific length of time, that any extension of the break is contrary to the employer's rules, and any extension of the break will be punished. bona fide meal periods (typically 30 minutes or more) generally need not be compensated as work time. The employee must be completely relieved from duty for the purpose of eating regular meals. The employee is not relieved if he/she is required to perform any duties, whether active or inactive, while eating.

Sleeping Time and Certain Other Activities: An employee who is required to be on duty for less than 24 hours is working even though he/she is permitted to sleep or engage in other personal activities when not busy. An employee required to be on duty for 24 hours or more may agree with the employer to exclude from hours worked bona fide regularly scheduled sleeping periods of not more than 8 hours, provided adequate sleeping facilities are furnished by the employer and the employee can usually enjoy an uninterrupted night's sleep. No reduction is permitted unless at least 5 hours of sleep is taken.

Lectures, Meetings and Training Programs: Attendance at lectures, meetings, training programs and similar activities need not be counted as working time only if four criteria are met, namely: it is outside normal hours, it is voluntary, not job related, and no other work is concurrently performed.

Travel Time: The principles which apply in determining whether time spent in travel is compensable time depends upon the kind of travel involved.

Home To Work Travel: An employee who travels from home before the regular workday and returns to his/her home at
the end of the workday is engaged in ordinary home to work travel, which is not work time.

Home to Work on a Special One Day Assignment in Another City: An employee who regularly works at a fixed location in one city is given a special one day assignment in another city and returns home the same day. The time spent in travelling to and returning from the other city is work time, except that the employer may deduct/not count that time the employee would normally spend commuting to the regular work site.

Travel That is All in the Day’s Work: Time spent by an employee in travel as part of his/her principal activity, such as travel from job site to job site during the workday, is work time and must be counted as hours worked.

Travel Away from Home Community: Travel that keeps an employee away from home overnight is travel away from home. Travel away from home is clearly work time when it cuts across the employee’s workday. The time is not only hours worked on regular working days during normal working hours but also during corresponding hours on nonworking days. As an enforcement policy the Division will not consider as work time that time spent in travel away from home outside of regular working hours as a passenger on an airplane, train, boat, bus, or automobile.

Typical Problems

Problems arise when employers fail to recognize and count certain hours worked as compensable hours. For example, an employee who remains at his/her desk while eating lunch and regularly answers the telephone and refers callers is working. This time must be counted and paid as compensable hours worked because the employee has not been completely relieved from duty.

Where To Obtain Additional Information

This publication is for general information and is not to be considered in the same light as official statements of position contained in the regulations.

For additional information, visit our Wage-Hour website: http://www.wagahour.dol.gov and/or call our Wage-Hour toll-free information and helpline, available 8am to 5pm in your time zone, 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).

This is one of a series of fact sheets highlighting U.S. Department of Labor programs. It is intended as a general description only and does not carry the force of legal opinion.

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Contact Us


10/12/2006
Fact Sheet #17A: Exemption for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Computer & Outside Sales Employees Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

This fact sheet provides general information on the exemption from minimum wage and overtime pay provided by Section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act as defined by Regulations, 29 CFR Part 541.

The FLSA requires that most employees in the United States be paid at least the federal minimum wage for all hours worked and overtime pay at time and one-half the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

However, Section 13(a)(1) of the FLSA provides an exemption from both minimum wage and overtime pay for employees employed as bona fide executive, administrative, professional and outside sales employees. Section 13(a)(1) and Section 13(a)(17) also exempt certain computer employees. To qualify for exemption, employees generally must meet certain tests regarding their job duties and be paid on a salary basis at not less than $455 per week. Job titles do not determine exempt status. In order for an exemption to apply, an employee's specific job duties and salary must meet all the requirements of the Department's regulations.

See other fact sheets in this series for more detailed information on the specific exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, computer, and outside sales employees, and for more information on the salary basis requirement.

Executive Exemption

To qualify for the executive employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:

- The employee must be compensated on a salary basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week;
- The employee's primary duty must be managing the enterprise, or managing a customary recognized department or subdivision of the enterprise;
- The employee must customarily and regularly direct the work of at least two or more other full-time employees or their equivalent; and
- The employee must have the authority to hire or fire other employees, or the employee's suggestions and recommendations as to the hiring, firing, advancement, promotion or any other change of status of other employees must be given particular weight.

Administrative Exemption

To qualify for the administrative employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:

- The employee must be compensated on a salary or fee basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week;
- The employee's primary duty must be the performance of office or non-manual work directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer or the employer's customers; and
- The employee's primary duty includes the exercise of discretion and independent judgment with respect to matters of significance.

Professional Exemption

To qualify for the learned professional employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:
The employee must be compensated on a salary or fee basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week;
- The employee's primary duty must be the performance of work requiring advanced knowledge, defined as work which is predominantly intellectual in character and which includes work requiring the consistent exercise of discretion and judgment;
- The advanced knowledge must be in a field of science or learning; and
- The advanced knowledge must be customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction.

To qualify for the creative professional employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:

- The employee must be compensated on a salary or fee basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week;
- The employee's primary duty must be the performance of work requiring invention, imagination, originality or talent in a recognized field of artistic or creative endeavor.

Computer Employee Exemption

To qualify for the computer employee exemption, the following tests must be met:

- The employee must be compensated either on a salary or fee basis (as defined in the regulations) at a rate not less than $455 per week or, if compensated on an hourly basis, at a rate not less than $27.65 an hour;
- The employee must be employed as a computer systems analyst, computer programmer, software engineer or other similarly skilled worker in the computer field performing the duties described below;
- The employee's primary duty must consist of:

  1) The application of systems analysis techniques and procedures, including consulting with users, to determine hardware, software or system functional specifications;
  2) The design, development, documentation, analysis, creation, testing or modification of computer systems or programs, including prototypes, based on and related to user or system design specifications;
  3) The design, documentation, testing, creation or modification of computer programs related to machine operating systems; or
  4) A combination of the aforementioned duties, the performance of which requires the same level of skills.

Outside Sales Exemption

To qualify for the outside sales employee exemption, all of the following tests must be met:

- The employee's primary duty must be making sales (as defined in the FLSA), or obtaining orders or contracts for services or for the use of facilities for which a consideration will be paid by the client or customer; and
- The employee must be customarily and regularly engaged away from the employer's place or places of business.

Highly Compensated Employees

Highly compensated employees performing office or non-manual work and paid total annual compensation of $100,000 or more (which must include at least $455 per week paid on a salary or fee basis) are exempt from the FLSA if they customarily and regularly perform at least one of the duties of an exempt executive, administrative or professional employee identified in the standard tests for exemption.

Blue Collar Workers

The exemptions provided by FLSA Section 13(a)(1) apply only to "white collar" employees who meet the salary and duties tests set forth in the Part 541 regulations. The exemptions do not apply to manual laborers or other "blue collar" workers who perform work involving repetitive operations with their hands, physical skill and energy. FLSA-covered, non-management employees in production, maintenance, construction and similar occupations such as carpenters, electricians, mechanics, plumbers, iron workers, craftsmen, operating engineers, longshoremen, construction workers and laborers are entitled to minimum wage and overtime premium pay under the FLSA, and are not exempt under the Part 541 regulations no matter how highly paid they might be.

http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/whd/fairpay/fs17a_overview.htm

10/26/2006
Police, Fire Fighters, Paramedics & Other First Responders

The exemptions also do not apply to police officers, detectives, deputy sheriffs, state troopers, highway patrol officers, investigators, inspectors, correctional officers, parole or probation officers, park rangers, fire fighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, ambulance personnel, rescue workers, hazardous materials workers and similar employees, regardless of rank or pay level, who perform work such as preventing, controlling or extinguishing fires of any type; rescuing fire, crime or accident victims; preventing or detecting crimes; conducting investigations or inspections for violations of law; performing surveillance; pursuing, restraining and apprehending suspects; detaining or supervising suspected and convicted criminals, including those on probation or parole; interviewing witnesses; interrogating and fingerprinting suspects; preparing investigative reports; or other similar work.

Other Laws & Collective Bargaining Agreements

The FLSA provides minimum standards that may be exceeded, but cannot be waived or reduced. Employers must comply, for example, with any Federal, State or municipal laws, regulations or ordinances establishing a higher minimum wage or lower maximum workweek than those established under the FLSA. Similarly, employers may, on their own initiative or under a collective bargaining agreement, provide a higher wage, shorter workweek, or higher overtime premium than provided under the FLSA. While collective bargaining agreements cannot waive or reduce FLSA protections, nothing in the FLSA or the Part 541 regulation relieves employers from their contractual obligations under such bargaining agreements.

Where to Obtain Additional Information

The Department of Labor provides this information to enhance public access to information on its programs. This publication is for general information and is not to be considered in the same light as official statements of position contained in the regulations.

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Copies of Wage and Hour publications also may be obtained from any office of the Wage and Hour Division. To locate the nearest Wage and Hour Division office, telephone the toll-free help line or visit our Web site for a complete listing of offices.

When the state laws differ from the federal FLSA, an employer must comply with the standards most protective to employees. Links to your state labor department can be found at www.dol.gov/esa/contacts/state_of.htm.

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http://www.dol.gov/esa/contacts/whd/america2.htm