



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Whistleblower Investigation Report

University of Washington

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January 8, 2018

Ana Mari Cauce, Ph.D., President
University of Washington

Report on Whistleblower Investigation

Attached is the official report on Whistleblower Case No. 18-003 at the University of Washington.

The State Auditor's Office received an assertion of improper governmental activity at the University. This assertion was submitted to us under the provisions of Chapter 42.40 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Whistleblower Act. We have investigated the assertion independently and objectively through interviews and by reviewing relevant documents. This report contains the result of our investigation.

If you are a member of the media and have questions about this report, please contact Assistant Director for Communications Kathleen Cooper at (360) 902-0470. Otherwise, please contact Whistleblower Manager Jim Brownell at (360) 725-5352.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

cc: Governor Jay Inslee
Richard Cordova, Executive Director of Audits
Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Executive Ethics Board
Jacque Hawkins-Jones, Investigator

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION REPORT

Assertions and Results

Our Office received a whistleblower complaint asserting two University of Washington employees (subjects 1 and 2) did not submit leave for all of their absences. The complaint also asserted that subject 1, who supervises subject 2, granted subject 2 a special privilege by not requiring her to submit leave for all of her absences.

We found no reasonable cause to believe and improper governmental action occurred.

About the Investigation

We reviewed both subjects' hard drives, network folders, emails and leave reports from July 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017. We found both subjects' vacation and sick leave reconciled with their absences as noted on their Microsoft Outlook calendars.

Additionally, we verified that work activity occurred on all other scheduled workdays – indicating the subject submitted leave for all absences.

Therefore, we found no reasonable cause to believe an improper governmental action occurred.

State Auditor's Office Concluding Remarks

We thank University officials and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION CRITERIA

We came to our determination in this investigation by evaluating the facts against the criteria below:

RCW 42.52.070 – Special Privileges.

Except as required to perform duties within the scope of employment, no state officer or state employee may use his or her position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself, or his or her spouse, child, parents, or other persons.

RCW 42.52.160(1) – Use of persons, money, or property for private gain.

(1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

WAC 292-110-010(1) – Use of state resources.

(1) Statement of principles. All state employees and officers are responsible for the proper use of state resources, including funds, facilities, tools, property, and their time. This section does not restrict the use of state resources as described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.