Class C Resolution adopted at the October 24, 2002, Faculty Senate Meeting

For those of you who were away this summer, the Seattle Times on 7-27-02 reported in detail on the affair of Dr. Richard Winn, formerly of the UW faculty in the Medical School who pled guilty of obstructing justice. He will be sentenced on October 28 in the Federal Court in Seattle. (He pressured our resident physicians to not testify that he was not present in the operating room for cases that he collected for—illegally).

The Dean of the Medical School has promised him up to $5 million from the University of Washington Physician funds to resign from the faculty.

The UWP is a non-profit corporation, controlled by the Dean of the Medical School. The charter restricts the use of these funds to salaries and benefits for physicians caring for patients in the University Hospitals and Clinics. Any funds beyond that use are restricted by the charter for research and teaching; clearly a golden parachute is neither.

The effect on the reputation of the University is bad; how can we teach our students that crime doesn’t pay, with this bad precedent agreed to by the Dean, who also violated his fiduciary duty to the faculty by missing these funds. In fact, he stopped payments for medical benefits for the faculty (part of the original partnership) during the time of the Grand Jury investigation leading to Dr. Winn’s conviction.

We move that the appropriate Faculty Council be asked to examine this matter, and to determine if the current regulations for spending funds from non-state origins are adequate for their effectiveness in specifying the fiduciary duties of their administrators, and to provide sufficient openness for scrutiny by the public, the President, and the affected faculty.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
October 21, 2002

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
October 24, 2002