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TO: University Senate
FROM: Faculty Affairs Committee
RE: Statement on Academic Ethics

In the final analysis, the individual is the primary arbiter of his own ethical professional conduct; yet it is valuable to propose standards to guide professors and to aid them in avoiding situations in which conflicts of interest may arise.

Discussion:

A professor in a state-supported university has overlapping professional responsibilities. In addition to his primary responsibility to his students, to his colleagues and to the governing body of the institution, he commonly is expected to adhere to explicit or implicit codes of ethics or standards of conduct of professional societies, of government units, and of industrial organizations for whom he may serve on a part-time basis. Insofar as all of these responsibilities are concerned with reinforcing the common ethics of our society, few differences exist among them. Inevitably, however, there are areas in which some of these responsibilities may conflict with one another. In this statement, we attempt to present some guidelines for Purdue faculty members.

Within the University

I. RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS

The professor's primary role is to teach students. His corollary activities and obligations of improving his scholarly competence, serving his community, and serving the University require additional effort but should not interfere with the guidance and development of his students. He recognizes that his students are entitled to the same spirit of free inquiry and scholarly environment that he himself enjoys.

II. RELATIONSHIP WITH FACULTY COLLEAGUES

The professor recognizes his relationship to others in the teaching profession as one involving free interchange of scholarly effort, one of fostering an intellectual climate for mutual benefit. He respects and defends the right of free inquiry of his associates. Showing professional respect for the opinions of others, he strives to be objective in his professional judgment of colleagues.
III. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

The professor recognizes the legal, political, and economic boundaries imposed upon the University. He further recognizes that, like the faculty, the administrative officers are bound by charters and laws and are agents of the Board of Trustees in carrying out its educational objectives as are prescribed by the University's Charter. He recognizes his responsibility as a member of the faculty for participation in the formulation of educational policy and in the government of the University.

With the Extramural Community

IV. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Professors commonly are requested to supply professional advice within their fields of competence to various levels and branches of government. Such services should be performed only under conditions of mutual agreement between the University and the professor.

The Faculty resolution on political activity adopted by the faculty is set forth in Executive Memorandum A-263 (1 April 1966) and is made a part of this statement.

V. RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

A professor recognizes that scholarship and research are essential to teaching. He makes a realistic assessment of the portions of his effort which he shall assign to his several activities so that they shall not interfere with his basic responsibilities to his students.

When a professor's duties involve administration and research he shall be cognizant of his personal and professional relationships with his associates. It is incumbent upon the professor in such circumstances to ensure that research will be performed in such a way that his students become colleagues.

VI. CONSULTING SERVICE

The professor is aware that his expertise in his discipline should become available to the civic and industrial community, even though there may be limitations by law or charter. Equally, in many fields, it is a duty of the faculty member to bring the knowledge and techniques of the extramural world into the University classroom. The free interchange between the academic world and the extramural world is essential to the development of his discipline.
In this free intercourse the complexity of situations may involve loyalties, responsibilities and may result in agreements of varying types. The professor must be guided by a fine sense of distinction in these matters, recognizing that his primary allegiance is to his students and to the University of which they are a part. He recognizes the complexities of these situations and develops his relationships with his clients so that his allegiances are not compromised. To this end he will seek the assistance of his colleagues and of administrative officers when appropriate. See Executive Memoranda on Conflict of Interest.