



March 23, 2010

Vancouver, WA 98682

Dear Dr. Roi,

On February 3, 2010, you sent an email to other AHE members regarding concern about legislation that was being discussed in Olympia. You used the Clark College email system to send this email. In your email, you encouraged political activity from your members regarding legislation that may impact adjunct faculty. In a meeting held on March 9, 2010, you stated that your purpose in the email was to inform your members about the legislation and that it was simply for communication. You also stated that you advised your members to delete the email following a conversation with your higher education legislative chair.

We believe that there are two areas of concern regarding this use of email. State ethics law prohibits employees from using public property for the benefit of another (RCW 42.52.160). To the extent that College email was used for political purposes, your email is a direct violation of the state ethics law. In addition, state employees are prohibited from using agency facilities or equipment to assist in an election or to promote or oppose a ballot proposition (RCW 42.52.180[2]). You stated that your email did not technically assist in an election or promote or oppose a ballot proposition; however, the content of the email clearly was promoting a legislative position.

There is nothing in Clark's collective bargaining agreement that allows AHE/WEA to use college email system to communicate with members. In fact, the state constitution prohibits the gift of state funds, including the use of state owned facilities, equipment or services which would include the use of the college email system. This issue could potentially be addressed in bargaining, but currently is not a part of the AHE contract.

Therefore, I am directing you to stop using college email for any political purposes or for any union communication. Any further use of the email system for these purposes may result in disciplinary action.

Sincerely,

Rassoul Dastmozd, PhD
Vice President of Instruction

Clark College *The Next Step*