

Steve Collins (Fri, 11 Oct 2019 at 10:25 AM)

Dear Mx. Blackhorn,

Regarding Case Number 58010, the allegations by Cody Hart relate to activities during my term as President of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) during 2018-19. WSPE is an affiliated state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). During this period, I was on sabbatical from the University of Washington Bothell (UWB), where I am a tenured Associate Professor. My sabbatical was effective for the academic year 2018-19, and I officially resumed full-time faculty status at the start of the 2019-20 academic year in September.

Please allow me to give some background about the activities in question.

Earlier this year, a bill came before the legislature (SB 5443/HB1776) to make the WA Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BORPELS) independent from the Department of Licensing (DOL). BORPELS is a body of licensed engineers and land surveyors, appointed by the governor, to regulate the practice of engineering and land surveying in accordance with relevant provisions of RCW. WSPE has historically had a close relationship with BORPELS, and by tradition one of WSPE's board members has also served on BORPELS. The interests of the two bodies don't completely overlap, as WSPE tends to favor a more strict interpretation of statute than does BORPELS. However, WSPE strongly endorsed the legislation in question.

In March, I joined a delegation organized by the American Council for Engineering Companies (ACEC) and the Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC, chaired by Clifford Webster), of which I was a member in virtue of the fact that WSPE is a contributing member, that visited Olympia on "AELC Washington Day in Olympia" to meet with legislators about this bill. This visit occurred March 19, when I was on sabbatical from UWB. Later, I emailed and called legislators on behalf of WSPE urging them to vote for the legislation (all from home, using personal resources, and while on sabbatical). Whenever representing myself, it was always as the President of WSPE, not as a faculty at UWB, and I spent no personal funds, even riding with someone else to Olympia for AELC Day.

I hope this addresses the concerns raised in the allegations.

With Best Regards,

Steven Collins