

Meyers, Robert (COE)

ING 08-37

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 1:23 PM
To: Southwell, Miguel (Aviation)
Subject: RE: Request for Opinion - Miami-Dade Aviation Travel Request - Dr. Patricia Ryan

Hi Miguel,

I am not sure I understand your question, but let me see if I have it right. Dr. Ryan is going to be paid to develop and teach a course for ACI, compensated as outside income, and she is asking the Aviation Department to pay for her travel to teach the course. If I have the facts straight, the Aviation Department should not pay for her travel. An employee with approved outside employment is responsible for covering any costs/expenses associated with the employee's outside employment. As I see it, either she covers these costs on her own or ACI should pick up these costs. The County should only pay for these costs if they are tied to her official County duties, and if you reach the conclusion that such activities are part of her duties with the County, she should not be approved for outside employment.

If I have misunderstood the arrangements, please let me know.

Thanks,

Robert
 Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
 (305) 350-0613

From: Southwell, Miguel (Aviation) [mailto:MSouthwell@miami-airport.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 10:01 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Pelkowski, Vivien (Aviation)
Subject: Request for Opinion - Miami-Dade Aviation Travel Request - Dr. Patricia Ryan

Hi Bob:

Wanted to get your opinion on something. As you may recall I am the Assistant Director of Aviation for Business and Retention at the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD). Among the divisions under my oversight is Commercial Operations (Concessions etc), headed by one of the best in the industry, Dr. Patricia Ryan.

Dr. Ryan has submitted a request to teach a class in India for Airports Council International (ACI) for which I ask your opinion.

ACI is the association of the world's airports with headquarters in Geneva, and five regional secretariats in North America, Europe, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Asia. MIA is a leading member of ACI which often asks its airport members to have their top officials conduct training on behalf of the organization. Such airports, in support of their membership and ACI, provide such training at the airport's expense – travel, hotel etc, even though the students attending the classes usually pay ACI a nominal tuition to attend the classes. Without such contribution from its members, ACI would not have been able to provide such training to airport the professional growth of its members around the world. And, many MDAD professionals, including Dr. Ryan, have gladly conducted such classes over the

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years, particularly those held for the ACI Fund, a division within ACI which provides seminars for airport professionals in developing nations – Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Last year however, as part of a new training division called ACI Global Training Hub, ACI embarked upon a much needed accreditation program for airport managers and contracted with a university to develop the course. The university asked Dr. Ryan, who has done similar work prior to joining MDAD, to develop the course in Commercial Operations, for which she would be paid a fee. Dr. Ryan, submitted a request for “outside employment”, which I eagerly approved as I believed her to be the most competent person to do so..

Today however, I have received the aforementioned request from Dr. Ryan for travel to teach an ACI Fund course in Commercial Operations; and as usual to be paid for by MDAD. Let me point out that had Dr. Ryan not recently written for compensation, the course for the ACI Global Training Hub, I would have eagerly approved this request to teach the class for the ACI Fund course, a noble cause. However, given the new and recent twist re her work for the ACI Global Training Hub, I wanted to get your opinion before I make a final determination. Thanks.

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