



Institution: Bowling Green State University
Case Type: Interpretation Request

Division: I

Case ID: 1044924
Date: 07/09/2019

Page 1 - General Information

General Information

Institution Information

Institution or Conference Bowling Green State University

Division of Institution I

Conference Mid-American Conference

Phone Number 419/372-2401

Academic year related to this request 2018-19

Sub Case Types

Please check all the Interpretation Request sub-case types and conditions that apply

Awards and Benefits - Bylaw 16

Legislation Related to this Request

Provide cite(s) of applicable legislation, educational column or interpretation

Type	Division	ID	Text
Bylaw	I	16.3	Academic and Other Support Services.
Bylaw	I	16.3.1	Mandatory.
Bylaw	I	16.3.1.2	Life Skills Programs.
Bylaw	I	16.11.1.5	Occasional Meals.
Bylaw	I	16.3.1.1	Academic Counseling/Support Services.
Bylaw	I	16.6.1.5	Reasonable Food and Drinks.
Bylaw	I	16.6.1	Permissible.

One sentence statement that describes the interpretive issue.

May a student-athlete's significant other be provided a meal in conjunction with a life-skills event.

Case Prioritization Information

Do the circumstances of this request require urgent review (within the next two business days)? No

Page 2 - Case Information

Case Information

Case Information

All Requests

Describe the interpretive request

In Fall 2018, institution hired and contracted a licensed Life Coach (LC) on Men's Basketball staff to help student-athletes with life skills outside of basketball. Part of the LC's practices and counseling are to help couples with their relationships (family, residential, friendship, romantic, etc.). As the life coach does with other clients he works for, LC took a MBB student athlete and his girlfriend out to dinner at a local restaurant as part of one of the relationship counseling sessions. It is very common ground for the LC to do this and he invited his own wife along to provide the comfort of an informal "double date" setting instead of sitting in an office or other formal place. Institution asserts 1) this is normal practice for LC to do for all of his clients; and 2) SA's meal can be seen as an occasional meal since LC is on MBB staff. Institution is requesting if the meal provided to the SA's girlfriend can be viewed in the scope of 16.6.1.5 "for other reasons" reasonable food and drinks or if a violation should be filed and restitution payment should be made for SA girlfriend's meal in conjunction with the life-skills event.

Have you previously contacted any NCAA staff regarding this request? No

Have the institution and conference communicated regarding this request? Yes

Provide the date(s) of contact between the institution and conference office regarding this request. 01/18/2019

Provide the conference analysis of the interpretive request. There may be a violation due to the fact that SA's significant other's meal was paid for by employee of coaching staff. However, this may be permissible due to the nature of the meal being in conjunction with the teams "Life Skills" program.

Provide the institution's analysis of the interpretive request. There may be a violation due to the fact that SA's significant other's meal was paid for by employee of coaching staff. However, this may be permissible due to the nature of the meal being in conjunction with the teams "Life Skills" program. Embedded within a transformative life-coaching model for student-athletes are creative educational components that Dr. Michael Brown has utilized with tens of thousands of college students over the past two decades as a scholar and practitioner in a variety of higher education contexts. He has been significantly influenced by Dr. Sharon Parks and her vision for a "mentoring community" that promotes and encourages the meaning-making process and personal development, or for the purposes of BGSU Athletics, framed as holistic development in the Twelve Dimensions of Life. Dr. Brown utilizes a template of seven characteristics designed to strengthen the mentoring process in college students' lives by: 1) Creating a network of belonging 2) Posing big enough questions 3) Offering encounters with otherness 4) Nurturing habits of the mind 5) Exploring worthy dreams 6) Accessing powerful images 7) Being communities of practice at hearth, table, and commons It is this seventh characteristic that informs Dr. Brown's strategy of engaging in significant conversations with student athletes over a meal. Furthermore, particularly when addressing the Relational Dimension (see attachment) of their lives; it is necessary, on occasion, to invite significant others (parents, family members, close friends, roommates, classmates, or romantic partners) to join the conversation within this breakfast, lunch, or dinner context. REFERENCE Parks, S. D. (2000). Big questions, worthy dreams: Mentoring young adults in their search for meaning, purpose, and faith. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Case Documentation

(Maximum individual file size is 10MB.) Upload each document individually.

Recommended Documentation

If necessary

Provide any documentation related to the interpretive request

[Dr Brown Rationale.pdf](#)

Uploaded on 01/18/2019 by Britt Grove

[12_dimensions_of_college_student.pdf](#)

Uploaded on 01/22/2019 by Chet Hesson

Case Contacts and Submission

Select Contacts for this Case

Primary Contact Chet Hesson (chesson@bgsu.edu) Phone: 419-372-0435

Secondary Contact Britt Grove (bgrove@bgsu.edu) Phone: 419-372-7844

Additional Case Contacts

Additional contacts with a valid email address from the conference or member institution will receive selected e-mails related to the case.

Email Delivery First Name Last Name Title E-mail Address

Terms and Conditions

Disclaimer Terms and Conditions

I understand the interpretations staff response will be based solely on the specific facts provided in this interpretive request. Any changes to the facts presented, or additional information relevant to this request, must be submitted through Requests/Self-Reports Online.

Agreement by Chet Hesson on 01/22/2019

Activity After Case Submission

Responses to Requests for Additional Information



Case Summary

General Case Information

Case Number	Case Type	Sub Case Type	Release to Database
1044924	Interpretation Request	Awards and Benefits - Bylaw 16	No

Division	Sport(s)
I	

Legislative Cite(s)

16.3 - Academic and Other Support Services.
16.3.1 - Mandatory.
16.3.1.2 - Life Skills Programs.
16.11.1.5 - Occasional Meals.
16.3.1.1 - Academic Counseling/Support Services.
16.6.1.5 - Reasonable Food and Drinks.
16.6.1 - Permissible.

Status Information

Status	Status Date	Status Level	Status Level Type
Resolved	01/25/2019	Staff	Bylaw Team Meeting

Conditions

Rationale

Interpretation:: Met with the bylaw team and we agreed that in light of interpretations philosophy and the normal nature in which the LC provides comprehensive relationship counseling ("double date" atmosphere) as well as bylaws that could potentially extend to the situation (e.g., 16.3 in that the entire session could be seen as for the benefit of the SA and 16.6.1.5 to the extent that the relationship is such that the girlfriend could fall under the definition of family member) that, under the specific scenario outlined, the provision of the meal to the SA girlfriend would not be a violation.

Case Summary

Specific Case Information

Describe the interpretive request

In Fall 2018, institution hired and contracted a licensed Life Coach (LC) on Men's Basketball staff to help student-athletes with life skills outside of basketball. Part of the LC's practices and counseling are to help couples with their relationships (family, residential, friendship, romantic, etc.). As the life coach does with other clients he works for, LC took a MBB student athlete and his girlfriend out to dinner at a local restaurant as part of one of the relationship counseling sessions. It is very common ground for the LC to do this and he invited his own wife along to provide the comfort of an informal "double date" setting instead of sitting in an office or other formal place. Institution asserts 1) this is normal practice for LC to do for all of his clients; and 2) SA's meal can be seen as an occasional meal since LC is on MBB staff. Institution is requesting if the meal provided to the SA's girlfriend can be viewed in the scope of 16.6.1.5 "for other reasons" reasonable food and drinks or if a violation should be filed and restitution payment should be made for SA girlfriend's meal in conjunction with the life-skills event.

Provide the conference analysis of the interpretive request.

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[Decision PDF](#)

Decision

Accepted Date 01/25/2019

Accepted By Chet Hesson

Your feedback is important. Would you like to give praise, report a problem or share an idea? With your help and input, we can continue to improve AMA's service and the RSRO submission process.

[Provide Feedback](#)

Status

Resolved

**Status
Date**

01/25/2019

Conditions

Rationale

Interpretation:: Met with the bylaw team and we agreed that in light of interpretations philosophy and the normal nature in which the LC provides comprehensive relationship counseling ("double date" atmosphere) as well as bylaws that could potentially extend to the situation (e.g., 16.3 in that the entire session could be seen as for the benefit of the SA and 16.6.1.5 to the extent that the relationship is such that the girlfriend could fall under the definition of family member) that, under the specific scenario outlined, the provision of the meal to the SA girlfriend would not be a violation.