

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

FILED

05 JAN 18 PM 4:22

KING COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK
KENT, WA

Hon. Michael S. Spearman
Trial Date: Monday, January 24, 2005

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

RICHARD G. NEUHEISEL, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, an
agency of the State of Washington;
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION, an unincorporated
association; JOHN/JANE DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

No. 03-2-34268-8SEA

PLAINTIFF'S MOTIONS IN LIMINE

Plaintiff Richard G. Neuheisel (hereinafter Neuheisel) moves in limine to exclude the following evidence and argument.

I. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument Relating To The Tapes Of Neuheisel's June 4, 2003 Interview By The NCAA

The University has placed the tapes of Neuheisel's June 4, 2003, interview with the NCAA on its trial exhibit list. Exhibit (hereinafter Ex.) A (University's proposed exhibit no. 36).¹ The NCAA generally tapes all such interviews. In this case, however, the first part of Neuheisel's interview was not recorded. Rather, the NCAA recorded only the later portions of the interview in which Neuheisel is alleged to have made false

¹ All exhibits cited herein are attached to the declaration of Robert M. Sulkin, filed herewith.

1 statements. Neuheisel had no control over the taping of the interviews and bears no
2 responsibility for the loss of this crucial evidence. Neuheisel moves to exclude the tapes
3 or any transcript thereof on the grounds that such evidence would be unduly prejudicial
4 under ER 403 and would violate the rule of completeness. ER 106.

5 Evidence may be excluded where the “probative value is substantially outweighed
6 by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury,”
7 ER 403. Here, Admission of the tapes would be unfairly prejudicial because they present
8 Neuheisel’s allegedly false statements entirely out of context. Neuheisel’s recorded
9 statement can only be understood in the context of the NCAA’s initial questioning of him.

10 The first portion of the interviews demonstrates the unfair tactics and and surprise
11 used by the NCAA. For example, Neuheisel understood the NCAA’s questioning to
12 imply that Neuheisel had connections to organized crime and that he had associated with
13 individuals involved in criminal activity. This context is essential to understand the nature
14 of Neuheisel’s later statements, his reasons for making those statements, and, in particular,
15 his demeanor at the time. Thus, introduction of the tapes would mean that the jury would
16 hear only Neuheisel’s allegedly evasive answers to questions but could never hear the
17 NCAA’s improper interrogation techniques that set the stage for such answers. Allowing
18 the jury to hear only the latter portion of the interview would unfairly prejudice
19 Neuheisel’s ability to explain this context. Whatever relevance the tapes might have is
20 substantially outweighed by this unfairly prejudicial effect. ER 403.

21 Similarly, any marginal probative value is substantially outweighed by the
22 potential to mislead the jury as to the nature and context of the interview. Admission of
23 the tapes would also present a substantial danger that the jury would be confused and
24 believe that the issue is whether Neuheisel made the statements on the tapes when the fact
25 of those statements is undisputed.
26

1 Ordinarily, Neuheisel would be entitled to rebut Defendants' use of only a portion
2 of the tapes by introducing the remainder under the rule of completeness. Where one
3 party introduces only a portion of a writing or recording, the other party may "introduce
4 any other part, or any other writing or recorded statement, which ought in fairness to be
5 considered contemporaneously with it." ER 106. The rule of completeness is violated
6 where the admission of the evidence in its edited form distorts the meaning of the
7 statement or excludes "substantially exculpatory" information. *State v. Alsup*, 75 Wn.App.
8 128, 133, 876 P.2d 935 (1994). Yet, here, Neuheisel cannot introduce the missing portion
9 of the interview because the NCAA failed to record that portion. Moreover, neither the
10 Board of Regents nor Hedges listened to the tapes before firing Neuheisel. Thus, fairness
11 demands that Defendants be precluded from introducing the tapes.

12 **II. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument Relating To Hearsay**
13 **Statements By the University's Board of Regents**

14 Neuheisel anticipates that the University will attempt to introduce or solicit
15 hearsay statements of the University's Board of Regents made during board meetings. In
16 particular, the University has indicated that it intends to introduce a document containing
17 hearsay statements of the University's Board of Regents. Ex. A (University's proposed
18 trial exhibit no. 26), Ex. B. Neuheisel moves to exclude any such hearsay statements by
19 the Board of Regents, including this document, as lacking foundation, irrelevant,
20 inadmissible hearsay, and unduly prejudicial.

21 At the time it was produced, the document in question was attached to Hedges'
22 notes of a February 21, 2003 meeting of the Board of Regents. Hedges, however, testified
23 that it was "not her document." Ex. C at 285:5-6. Nor does the document give any
24 indication as to who created it, what it references, when the statements referenced were
25 made, or the context of the statements. Further, the University has not designated any
26 Regent as a trial witness. Thus, the University cannot establish any foundation with

1 respect to the document, let alone whether the statements were ever made or adopted by
2 the Board of Regents.

3 Even if an adequate foundation could be established, however, the document
4 should be excluded as inadmissible hearsay. The document purports to reflect statements
5 or resolutions made by the Board of Regents. Such statements by an out of court
6 declarant cannot be offered by the party who made them for the truth of the matters
7 asserted. ER 802.

8 Nor is the document a business record or public record pursuant to RCW §
9 5.44.040 or RCW § 5.45. As an initial matter, the University should be estopped to argue
10 that the document represents a business or public record of the meeting of the Board of
11 Regents because it failed to produce any evidence of such statements or actions by the
12 Board of Regents during discovery. Any such documents, including for example,
13 resolutions or minutes of board meetings, fell within the scope of Neuheisel's discovery
14 requests. The court may exclude evidence that a party fails to produce in response to
15 proper discovery requests. CR 37(b)(2)(B).

16 Moreover, the University cannot establish the foundational elements of either
17 exception. To fall within the business record exception to the hearsay rule, a document
18 must have been: (a) made in the regular course of business, (b) at or near the time of the
19 statements described. RCW § 5.45.020. In order to fall within the public record
20 exception, the document must have been "on record or on file with the various
21 departments . . . of this state, when duly certified by the respective officers having by law
22 the custody thereof," RCW § 5.44.040. The unsigned list of bullet points authored
23 and faxed by an unknown person to an unknown recipient simply cannot satisfy any of
24 these requirements. Even if the University could establish the elements of one of these
25 exceptions, the circumstances and the face of the document itself indicate that the
26

1 document is not reliable. It should therefore be excluded as not trustworthy. RCW §
2 5.45.020.

3 Finally, even if the University could establish a foundation and an exception to the
4 hearsay rule, admission of the document would be unduly prejudicial. ER 403. Although
5 Hedges contends that she spoke to Neuheisel about the 49ers incident after the Board of
6 Regents meeting on February 21, 2003, there is no evidence that the document in question
7 was ever shown to Neuheisel, or that its contents were communicated to him. Indeed,
8 Hedges testified that the document was never "issued publicly," but instead was at most
9 an "internal statement." Ex. C at 289:18-22. Although the University now contends that
10 the February 21, 2003, Board meeting resulted in a decision to give Neuheisel a letter of
11 reprimand, it is undisputed that no such letter was ever given to Neuheisel. Hedges
12 specifically testified that she did not discuss anything else with Neuheisel in relation to the
13 Board meeting. Ex. C at 282:12-283:8. Thus, even if the Board of Regents actually made
14 the statements reflected in the document, those statements were never communicated to
15 Neuheisel, nor were any of the statements made public. In short, the statements referred
16 to in the documents, if they were ever actually made, were never acted upon by the
17 University.

18 It would be patently unfair to allow the University to introduce such negative
19 characterizations of Neuheisel when it neither acted upon nor advised Neuheisel of such
20 statements at the time. Admission of such statements would also pose significant dangers
21 of confusing the issues and misleading the jury when no discipline was ever imposed and
22 no Board decisions were ever communicated to Neuheisel regarding the 49ers incident.

23 Based on the same analysis, any testimony of witnesses as to hearsay statements
24 made by the Board of Regents at the February 21, 2003 meeting is also inadmissible
25 hearsay, ER 802, and unfairly prejudicial. ER 403. Accordingly, the University also
26 should be precluded from introducing or soliciting any other hearsay statements allegedly

1 made by the Board of Regents. In the alternative, Neuheisel requests an order requiring
2 the University to disclose any other hearsay statements of the Board in a hearing outside
3 the presence of the jury to establish admissibility pursuant to ER 104(c).

4 **III. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence Relating to the Sex Scandal At the**
5 **University of Colorado**

6 The University has conducted discovery regarding a nationally reported scandal
7 that recently erupted at the University of Colorado. Ex. D. The allegations have
8 absolutely nothing to do with Neuheisel's termination. The Colorado scandal involves
9 allegations of improper recruiting activities, including the alleged use of "sex parties" to
10 lure recruits. These allegations refer to events that occurred only after Neuheisel left the
11 University of Colorado. Two women have filed suits claiming that they were raped in
12 connection with these events. Neuheisel moves to exclude evidence, argument, or
13 questioning related to these events on the grounds that the allegations are irrelevant and
14 prejudicial and constitute inadmissible character evidence.

15 The evidence is entirely irrelevant. As an initial matter, any suggestion that
16 Neuheisel was connected with the alleged events is false and entirely unsupported.
17 Although Neuheisel was formerly the head football coach at the University of Colorado,
18 there is absolutely no evidence connecting him to any of the alleged incidents. To the
19 contrary, all evidence suggests that Mr. Neuheisel had absolutely nothing to do with any
20 of the alleged events at Colorado. In fact, the University of Colorado has told Neuheisel
21 that "there is nothing in the evidence which has been developed in this case which would
22 indicate that Rick Neuheisel acted inappropriately or indifferently." Ex. E. The
23 University of Colorado has also praised Neuheisel for his conduct while head football
24 coach there.

25 Even if such evidence existed, however, any allegation that Neuheisel was
26 involved in the alleged activities would be entirely irrelevant to the issues in this case.

1 There is no evidence, nor could there be, that the University terminated Neuheisel based
2 on events at Colorado that came to light only after his termination from the University of
3 Washington. Nor is there any evidence that the NCAA's investigation and public
4 statements were in any way related to events at Colorado. Thus, the evidence should be
5 excluded as irrelevant. ER 402.

6 Even if the evidence could be considered relevant, the probative value would be
7 substantially outweighed by the unfair prejudice to Neuheisel and should be excluded
8 pursuant to ER 403. Given the nationally-reported nature of the scandal and the visceral
9 emotional reaction jurors would likely experience upon hearsay allegations of rape and
10 sex parties, even the mere suggestion of Neuheisel's involvement through questioning
11 would be highly prejudicial and would invite the jury to decide this case on the basis of
12 purely emotional reactions to the allegations unfolding in Colorado. The suggestion
13 would also raise significant dangers of misleading the jury and confusing the issues in this
14 case as none of the allegations regarding Colorado are in any way connected to the
15 NCAA's investigation or the University's wrongful termination. Indeed, because of the
16 inflammatory nature of the scandal, Neuheisel would be forced to rebut any suggestion of
17 his involvement. Such a rebuttal would essentially require a mini-trial regarding
18 allegations arising at another University, at another time, and having nothing to do with
19 the issues in this case, thereby causing undue delay and wasting time. ER 403.

20 Finally, Defendants' only possible use of the allegations regarding Colorado would
21 be to attack Neuheisel's character. It is fundamental that: "evidence of a person's
22 character or a trait of character is not admissible for the purpose of proving action in
23 conformity therewith on a particular occasion" ER 404(a). In addition, "[e]vidence
24 of other crimes, wrongs, or acts is not admissible to prove the character of a person in
25 order to show action in conformity therewith." ER 404(b). Defendants cannot rely on any
26

1 of the exceptions to the prohibition against evidence of "other crimes, wrongs, or acts" to
2 prove character. ER 404(b).

3 **IV. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence and Argument Relating to The 2002**
4 **Pac-10 Letter Of Reprimand**

5 The University's exhibit list includes a February 27, 2002 letter from Pacific 10
6 Conference (hereinafter Pac-10) Commissioner, Thomas Hansen, reprimanding Neuheisel
7 based on allegations unrelated to the circumstances of Neuheisel's termination. Ex. A
8 (University's proposed trial exhibit no. 43), Ex F. Such instances of prior bad acts are
9 irrelevant, hearsay, unduly prejudicial, and inadmissible character evidence. Moreover,
10 neither the incident nor letter were identified as a basis of Neuheisel's termination in the
11 University's termination letter dated June 11, 2003. Accordingly, Neuheisel moves the
12 court to exclude any evidence or argument relating to the Pac-10 letter and the incident it
13 references.

14 The 2002 Pac-10 letter is inadmissible hearsay not falling within any exception to
15 the hearsay rule. ER 802, 803. No party has identified Hansen on a witness list. In
16 addition, the 2002 incident has no relevance to the issues in this case because it was not a
17 basis for either the NCAA's investigation or the University's wrongful termination. The
18 2002 Pac-10 letter related to Neuheisel's allegedly inappropriate statements about other
19 institutions' recruiting practices. But Neuheisel's allegedly inappropriate comments about
20 other institutions have nothing to do with the claims and defenses in this case. In
21 particular, Neuheisel contends that the University terminated him because of the NCAA's
22 improper conduct and public statements about gambling, while the University contends
23 that it terminated Neuheisel for conduct "taken as a whole" as set forth in the termination
24 letter dated June 11, 2003. Ex. G. Hedges specifically testified that the June 11, 2003 sets
25 forth the University's reasons for terminating Neuheisel. Similarly, Neuheisel contends
26 that the NCAA wrongfully interfered with his employment because of alleged gambling

1 activity, while the NCAA contends that Neuheisel's alleged gambling activity justified its
2 actions. The 2002 Pac-10 letter and Neuheisel's comments about recruiting at other
3 institutions are irrelevant and inadmissible as to all of these issues.

4 Any possible probative value of this prior bad act would also be substantially
5 outweighed by the unfair prejudice to Neuheisel. ER 403. It would be unfair to force
6 Neuheisel to defend his record on issues totally unrelated to the events and circumstances
7 surrounding his termination. Such evidence would also raise substantial danger that the
8 jury would be confused as to whether it was being asked to decide if this prior unrelated
9 incident occurred and whether it justified Neuheisel's termination.

10 The only possible relevance of prior bad acts such as that referenced by the 2002
11 Pac-10 letter would be to attack Neuheisel's character and imply that he has a character
12 trait for violating rules. That is, the Defendants would be arguing that because Neuheisel
13 has a character trait for violating rules, he must have violated the NCAA rules regarding
14 gambling. Such specific instances of prior conduct are inadmissible character evidence
15 where offered to show action in conformity therewith. ER 404(b). Nor could such prior
16 wrongs be relevant to show "motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge,
17 identity, or absence of mistake or accident. ER 404(b).

18 **V. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument That The**
19 **University's 1999 Email regarding March Madness Pools Was Never Sent**

20 In emails dated March 8, 1999, and March 13, 2003, the University authorized
21 participation in off-campus March Madness pools, stating that such participation did not
22 violate NCAA gambling rules. It is undisputed that the March 13, 2003 email was sent to
23 the University's athletic staff via email. During discovery, however, the University
24 appears to have taken the position that the March 8, 1999 email was never actually sent to
25 University employees. The court should preclude the University from introducing any
26 such evidence, argument, or questioning because (1) the University's apparent position is

1 directly contradicted by the testimony of the document's author and (2) the University
2 refused to produce evidence in discovery that would have countered the argument.

3 Notably, Dana Richardson, who authored the March 8, 1999 email, testified that
4 he sent the email to University athletic staff. Ex. H at 31:7-35:24. The University cannot
5 now contend that the email was never sent.

6 In addition, during discovery, Neuheisel specifically requested emails going back
7 to 1999. The University, however, refused to produce emails from 1999. Sulkin decl. at ¶
8 3. The University's refusal to produce emails from 1999 prevents Neuheisel from
9 establishing that the March 8, 1999 email was sent to athletic staff. The University should
10 not be allowed to benefit from its own refusal to produce documents properly requested in
11 discovery, particularly where the University's former employee who authored the email
12 testified that it was sent. The court may exclude evidence that a party failed to produce in
13 response to proper discovery requests. CR 37(b)(2)(B). In addition, allowing the
14 University to suggest through questioning that the email was never sent, when the
15 University's refusal to produce documents prevents any rebuttal, creates a serious danger
16 that the jury will be misled to believe the email was never sent. Thus the University also
17 should be precluded from such questioning pursuant to ER 403.

18 **VI. The Court Should Exclude Any Witnesses Not Disclosed Prior to Discovery**
19 **Cut Off**

20 The parties were required to disclose primary witness lists by August 23, 2004 and
21 rebuttal witnesses by October 4, 2004. Pursuant to this court's order of November 10,
22 2004, Ex. I, and LR 26(b), the parties were further required to disclose trial witnesses by
23 November 15, 2004. Discovery was cut-off on December 6, 2004.

24 After the exchange of the last witness disclosure pursuant to this court's order, and
25 after discovery cut-off, the University has for the first time disclosed a new witness on its
26 trial witness list, Ms. Nancy Hovis. Ex. A at 3:2. Though Ms. Hovis is an assistant

1 attorney general who represented the University in the negotiation of Neuheisel's contract,
2 and thus someone about whom the University has known since this case was filed, the
3 University never previously disclosed her as a witness. Ex. J. Indeed, Ms. Hovis's
4 involvement was described in one of the first depositions in this case nearly seven months
5 ago. In that deposition, Ms. Hedges testified that Ms. Hovis was the person that Ms.
6 Hedges worked with concerning Neuheisel's contract. Ex. C at 63:16-25, 64:1-17.

7 Local Rule 26(f) specifically provides that a party may not call a witness at trial
8 whom it has failed to disclose. In addition, because Ms. Hovis was never identified as a
9 witness, Neuheisel never deposed her, conducted other discovery concerning her, or took
10 her testimony into account in preparing his case. To allow a party to add a witness on the
11 eve of trial and after the court ordered witness disclosure and discovery cut-off deadlines
12 is patently unfair and substantially prejudices Neuheisel's ability to prepare for trial.
13 Accordingly, the court should preclude all parties from calling witnesses not disclosed
14 prior to discovery cut-off, including Ms. Hovis. *See, e.g., Dempere v. Nelson*, 76
15 Wn.App. 403, 405-06, 886 P.2d 219 (1994) (court may exclude witnesses not properly
16 disclosed in discovery), *rev. denied*, 126 Wn.2d 1015 (1995).

17 **VII. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument Relating To**
18 **Neuheisel's Failure to Pass the Bar On His First Attempt**

19 Neuheisel did not pass the Arizona bar exam on his first attempt.² The University
20 has conducted discovery on this subject and appears to contend that Neuheisel may have
21 failed the professional responsibility portion of the exam. The court should exclude any
22 evidence, argument, or questioning relating to this subject.

23 First, there is absolutely no evidence that Neuheisel failed the professional ethics
24 portion of the examination. Neuheisel took the exam approximately 15 years ago. Other
25 than having not studied sufficiently, Neuheisel has no specific memory of the exam or the
26

² Neuheisel did not study for the first exam, but passed the exam on his second attempt.

1 reason that he did not pass on the first attempt. The University has not identified any
2 evidence relating to the exam. Thus, any suggestion that Neuheisel failed the "ethics"
3 portion of the bar exam would be sheer speculation.

4 Moreover, such evidence is entirely irrelevant to any issue in this case. Even if
5 Neuheisel had failed the professional responsibility portion of the bar exam (a suggestion
6 that is sheer speculation), that fact would have no probative value whatsoever. The failure
7 to pass a professional responsibility examination, which relates to complicated rules of
8 professional conduct for lawyers, has nothing to do with ethics in general or whether a
9 person is ethical or not. Obviously this is not to say that ethics play no role in the rules
10 governing attorneys. Yet, the rules of professional conduct are distinct from ethics. For
11 example, an action might be entirely consistent with the rules of professional
12 responsibility and still be considered "unethical." By the same token, the fact that an
13 attorney fails an examination about the rules of professional responsibility says nothing
14 about that person's ethical standards. There simply is no theory of relevance that would
15 permit admission of Neuheisel's bar exam results.

16 Because jurors would not necessarily understand the distinction between the rules
17 of professional responsibility and "ethical" conduct, there is a substantial danger of unfair
18 prejudice to Neuheisel. Thus, even if there were a colorable theory of relevance, it would
19 be substantially outweighed by the unfair prejudice to Neuheisel. ER 403.

20 **VIII. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument Relating To**
21 **Attorney-Client Privileged Communications or the Assertion of Attorney-**
22 **Client Privilege**

23 Attorney-client communications and attorney-work product are privileged and
24 inadmissible. RCW 5.60.060(2)(a); CR 26(b)(4). Throughout discovery in this matter,
25 the University has precluded Neuheisel from conducting discovery by asserting the
26 attorney-client privilege or work-product privilege. The University may not now waive
these privileges to introduce testimony or other evidence when it prevented Neuheisel

1 from conducting discovery on the same issue. Accordingly, Neuheisel seeks an order
2 excluding any evidence, argument, or questioning relating to any issues as to which the
3 University has precluded Neuheisel from conducting discovery on the basis of the
4 attorney-client or work-product privileges.

5 **IX. The Court Should Exclude All Evidence And Argument That the University**
6 **Ever Created A Letter of Reprimand Relating to the 49ers Incident**

7 The University contends that after Neuheisel's statements to the press regarding
8 the 49ers it decided to give him a letter of reprimand. Yet, it is undisputed that the
9 University never gave Neuheisel any such letter of reprimand. Accordingly, the
10 University should be precluded from offering any evidence or testimony of such a letter of
11 reprimand. While the University may contend that it created such a letter at a later date,
12 any suggestion that it actually did so would be irrelevant because it never gave the letter to
13 Neuheisel. ER 402.

14 Indeed, any such evidence would, at most, constitute self-serving hearsay
15 statements by the University. Out-of-court statements by a party are admissible only if
16 offered against, not in favor of, that party. ER 801(d). Finally, any marginal probative
17 value of such evidence would be substantially outweighed by the unfair prejudice to
18 Neuheisel since no such letter was ever given to him. ER 403.

19 **X. The Court Should Rule As to Whether There is Only One Reasonable**
20 **Interpretation of the Termination Provision of Neuheisel's Contract with the**
21 **University and, if so, Exclude Evidence and Argument Relating to Any**
Contrary Interpretation

22 On summary judgment, the University argued that Neuheisel's contract should be
23 interpreted as defining any act of dishonesty to be a "serious act of misconduct" justifying
24 termination, regardless of whether the incident of dishonesty rose to the level of a serious
25 act of misconduct. Ordinarily, the meaning of the termination provision in Neuheisel's
26 contract would be a question of fact for the jury, and extrinsic evidence would be

1 admissible in determining the parties' intent in agreeing to that provision. *Berg v.*
2 *Hudesman*, 115 Wn.2d 657, 667, 801 P.2d 222 (1990) (extrinsic evidence of entire
3 circumstances under which contract was made is admissible to aid in determining intent
4 even if contract is unambiguous).

5 Nonetheless, from *Berg* to the present day, the Washington Supreme Court has
6 consistently recognized that: "Interpretation of a contract is a question of law if (1)
7 extrinsic evidence is not required to interpret the contract or (2) only one reasonable
8 inference can be drawn from the extrinsic evidence." *Berg*, 115 Wash.2d at 668
9 (emphasis added) (citing Restatement (Second) of Contracts, § 212(2) (1981)); *Scott*
10 *Galvanizing, Inc. v. Northwest EnviroServices, Inc.*, 120 Wn.2d 573, 582, 844 P.2d 428
11 (1993) (same). Additionally, whether a contract is ambiguous is a question of law. *Syrov*
12 *v. Alpine Resources, Inc.*, 122 Wn.2d 544, 551 n. 7, 859 P.2d 51 (1993). Here, there is
13 only one reasonable interpretation of the termination provision in Neuheisel's contract.
14 Under that provision, any ground for termination, including dishonesty, must rise to the
15 level of a serious act of misconduct. See Declaration Of Tom Bagan In Support Of
16 Plaintiff's Response To University Of Washington's Motion For Summary Judgment.

17 Accordingly, there is no reason for the University to present evidence or argument
18 to the jury regarding the meaning of the contract provision. Instead, to the extent that this
19 court has not already decided the issue, a hearing outside the presence of the jury should
20 be held, and the court should make a determination as to whether "only one reasonable
21 inference can be drawn from the extrinsic evidence." *Berg*, 115 Wash.2d at 668. Of
22 course, if the court determines that there is more than one reasonable interpretation to be
23 drawn from the extrinsic evidence, evidence and argument relating to the parties' intent
24 may be admissible.

25 If, on the other hand, the contract can only be interpreted to require an act of
26 "serious misconduct" to justify termination, the University should be precluded from

1 offering any evidence or argument to the contrary. Such evidence and argument would be
2 irrelevant if the court had already determined a contrary interpretation as a matter of law.
3 ER 402. Such evidence would also substantially confuse the issues before the jury. ER
4 403. More importantly, Neuheisel would be unfairly prejudiced if the University were
5 able to present evidence and argument totally unsupported by the only reasonable
6 interpretation of the contract. ER 403.

7 As an additional basis for excluding such evidence and argument, the University
8 should be precluded from offering evidence or argument that it believed it could terminate
9 Neuheisel for any single incident of dishonesty without regard to whether that incident
10 rose to the level of a serious act of misconduct. The University's letter of termination
11 given to Neuheisel on June 11, 2003 specifically states that Neuheisel was terminated on
12 the grounds that his "conduct, taken as a whole, constitutes 'serious acts of misconduct,'
13 under Section 8(c) of your contract" Ex. G. Thus, at the time of the termination, the
14 University unambiguously took the position that Neuheisel's conduct rose to the level of
15 "serious acts of conduct" under Section 8(c)" of the contract. Here, the University made a
16 factual representation as to the basis of Neuheisel's termination in a formal termination
17 letter. Given the circumstances, the University knew that the termination would be
18 disputed and, at a minimum, knew that litigation was likely. Accordingly, the University
19 should be estopped to assert a contrary basis for the termination or a contrary
20 interpretation of the contract in these judicial proceedings.

21 **XI. The Court Should Exclude Any Evidence, Argument, or Questioning**
22 **Regarding Neuheisel's Appeal of His Termination**

23 Neuheisel exercised his right to appeal the termination decision of Ms. Hedges.
24 Neuheisel anticipates that the University may attempt to introduce evidence regarding this
25 appeal, including the transcript. Neuheisel appeared at the appeal with his attorney,
26 Robert M. Sulkin, and Mr. Sulkin made the presentation. Neuheisel had a right to an

1 internal appeal of Hedges' termination decision under his contract as well as pursuant to
2 his fundamental due process rights. Neuheisel was represented at the time of the appeal
3 and the proceedings were a precursor to this litigation. Thus, the statements by
4 Neuheisel's attorney at the appeal were essentially part of this litigation. The statements
5 of Neuheisel's attorney at the hearing are no more evidence than the argument of counsel
6 during discovery disputes or pretrial motions. Finally, the University did not listen to the
7 tapes of the appeal prior to terminating Neuheisel and thus the transcripts could not have
8 played a role in the decision. Accordingly, Neuheisel moves to exclude any evidence,
9 argument, or testimony relating to his appeal.

10 DATED this Eighteenth day of January, 2005.

11 McNAUL EBEL NAWROT & HELGREN PLLC

12
13 By: 

14 Robert M. Sulkin, WSBA No. 15425
15 Gregory J. Hollon, WSBA No. 26311
16 Gregory G. Schwartz, WSBA No. 35921

17 **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

18 I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of
19 the United States and of the State of Washington, that
20 a true and correct copy of this document was

- 21 1) mailed first class postage prepaid
22 2) delivered via messenger
23 3) sent via facsimile

24 to: Louis Peterson a

25 John Aslin

26 on the 18th day of January 20 05

Signed Gari L. [Signature]