

Discipline Case Digest



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability

File: 004-01

Allegation:

A complaint was submitted against a College member alleging practice unbecoming a member and unprofessional conduct. The complainant alleged that the subject member engaged in work outside his employment that was related to his full time job and there was a conflict of interest between contract work conducted outside the office and the subject member's full time job.

Member Action:

The subject member submitted a Conditional Admission recognizing that the choices made had placed them in a perceived conflict of interest and that they should have dealt with the issue at the time. In addition the subject member realized that more care should have been taken not to injure the reputation of another in dealing with another professional.

Decision:

The Discipline Committee accepted the Conditional Admission and directed that a letter of reprimand be placed on the subject member's file for a period of 3 years and the decision published in the College newsletter.

Postscript:

There is nothing unethical in finding oneself in a position of real or perceived conflict of interest: what is required is to recognize the fact and deal with it accordingly. It is necessary to realize that because perceived conflicts may undermine trust, they can be as damaging as an actual conflict. Perceived conflict of interest is a serious matter.