Remarks by Peter Gilkey for the Town Hall meeting 21 January 2009 on COI/COC:

This Town Hall meeting on Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment (COI/COC) is sponsored jointly by the UO Senate and by the UO Chapter of the AAUP. My name is Peter Gilkey – I am Vice President of the UO Senate and I will act as moderator of this meeting. The members of the panel for the meeting are either members of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment or are members of the Executive Committee of the UO Chapter of the AAUP. I now ask each member of the panel to identify her/himself and to clarify their respective role.

The Senate Ad Hoc Committee on COI/COC was created by Senate President Paul van Donkelaar following some initial difficulties with implementing the COI/COC policy. It reports to the University of Oregon Senate. The committee is charged with reviewing and, where needed, suggesting revisions to the draft COI and COC policy to meet essential legal and policy requirements with a keen sensitivity to academic freedom and the culture of a public research university. The committee is to make a focused effort to consider the policy and associated disclosure form. I chair this committee. The committee has already decided to split its work and will first concentrate on the COI policy (without losing track of COC). It will report on COI to the March meeting of the UO Senate and COC to the May meeting of the Senate. All documents received are posted on the committee webpage.

The meeting today will deal with both COI and COC. I will first ask Rich Linton to give a brief overview of why a new COI/COC policy or process is indicated and to deal with related matters. Next I will ask Rob Horner to speak -- Rob has experience concerning these issues within the College of Education. Finally I will ask Carl Bybee who is acting President of the UO Chapter of the AAUP to speak concerning general philosophical issues concerning COI/COC from an AAUP perspective. After these presentations, I will act as moderator and ask members of the audience to provide input using the panel as a resource in the discussion