BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN UNIVERSITY WORK AND CONSULTING

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MY STORY

• Graduated with MS in Meteorology from UW-Madison

• Worked on PhD but did not finish

• Roland Stull mentioned CCM program in Professional Perspectives class

• Got CCM while on maternity leave in 1998
MY STORY

• Started doing CCM work with Mike Smith at WeatherData as independent contractor

• Have continued doing a combination of expert testimony and climate studies since 1998

• Participated in the William Mitchell College of Law workshop on Expert Testimony several years ago
DOING CONSULTING IN A UNIVERSITY SETTING

• Many professors do consulting for industry, non-profits or other groups

• Staff people are less likely to do consulting

• Most universities have strict policies about how many hours you can consult, who you can work with, and how to handle potential conflicts of interest
EXAMPLE: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

- You must apply before starting a consulting project--form must be signed by department head and dean
- Anything which brings in compensation would be considered outside work, including paid tutoring (not honoraria though)
- No more than 4 days or 32 hours per month of paid time
- Annual leave may be used for additional hours
- University property must not be used to do consulting except by permission
EXAMPLE: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

• More flexible than UGA, but must report new activities when started

• Avoid conflicts of interest, especially if they might interfere with Wisconsin businesses

• Concern for intellectual property rights like patents
DO YOU NEED A CCM TO DO CONSULTING AS A FACULTY MEMBER?

**NO.** Usually proof of educational background and experience are sufficient to get qualified as an expert in a court case.

**HOWEVER,** attorneys like the extra degree of certification to show that you have gone beyond education. Sometimes that can translate into extra $$.
ISSUES THAT UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES MAY EXPERIENCE

• May be pulled into court cases related to state legal issues ("Florida-Georgia water wars")

• Personnel records are subject to open records requests

• If you work on a lot of separate cases, paperwork can be cumbersome
CAUTION!

Just because you have a PhD there is no guarantee that you know what you are talking about!
HOW TO GET WORK

• Some opportunities will come up because of university work relationships

• CCM list from AMS

• If you do good work, you will get referrals and repeat customers
THANK YOU!

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