

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 251 http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/5cfr251_00.html

RIN 3206-AG38

Agency Relationships With Organizations Representing Federal Employees and Other Organizations

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing final regulations governing agency relations with managerial, supervisory, professional, and other organizations that are not labor organizations. These regulations are being issued as part of the implementation of the Federal Personnel Manual (FPM) sunset. The regulations incorporate certain provisions that existed in former FPM chapters 251 and 252.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 26, 1996.

Accordingly, OPM is adding Part 251 as follows:

1. Part 251 is added to read as follows:

PART 251--AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Subpart A--General Provisions

Sec.

251.101 Introduction.

251.102 Coverage.

251.103 Definitions.

Subpart B--Relationships With Organizations Representing Federal Employees and Other Organizations

251.201 Associations of management officials and/or supervisors.

251.202 Agency support to organizations representing Federal employees and other organizations.

Subpart C--Dues Withholding

251.301 Associations of management officials and/or supervisors.

251.302 All other organizations.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 1104; 5 U.S.C. Chap 7; 5 U.S.C. 7135; 5 U.S.C. 7301; and E.O. 11491.

Subpart A--General Provisions

Sec. 251.202 Agency support to organizations representing Federal employees and other organizations.

(a) An agency may provide support services to an organization when the agency determines that such action would benefit the agency's programs or would be warranted as a service to employees who are members of the organization and complies with applicable statutes and regulations. Examples of such support services are as follows:

(1) Permitting employees, in appropriate cases, to use agency equipment or administrative support services for preparing papers to be presented at conferences or symposia or published in journals;

(2) Using the authority under 5 U.S.C. 4109 and 4110, as implemented by 5 CFR part 410, to pay expenses of employees to attend professional organization meetings when such attendance is for the purpose of employee development or directly concerned with agency functions or activities and the agency can derive benefits from employee attendance at such meetings; and

(3) Following a liberal policy in authorizing excused absence for other employees who are willing to pay their own expenses to attend a meeting of a professional association or other organization from which an agency could derive some benefits.

(b) Agencies may provide Government resources support to organizations (such as space in Government facilities for meeting purposes and the use of agency bulletin boards, internal agency mail distribution systems, electronic bulletin boards and other means of informing agency employees about meetings and activities) in accordance with appropriate General Services Administration regulations contained in title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The mere provision of such support to any organization is not to be construed as Federal sponsorship, sanction, or endorsement of the organization or its activities.