Reader: Officers in the human resource department- Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GOP), who hold managerial/supervisory positions/ law students

Limit: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)-GOP

Purposes:

    General:

        1) To correlate ethics and social networking of DFA officers/employees.

    Specific:

        2) To identify the effects of social networking to the compliance of DFA employees with ethical standards set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and other related laws;
        3) To determine/hypothesize whether or not, based on laws, the effects of social networking with respect to DFA officers/employees are legal/ethical or otherwise; and,
        4) To give recommendation/s on how to resolve issues as may be identified/determined.

Method: Research and Interview

Hypotheses:

    1) That there is a correlation between ethics and social networking of DFA officers/employees.
    2) That social networking has an impact on the compliance of DFA officers/employees with the ethical standards set by the Civil Service Commission and other related laws.
    3) That the ethics of DFA officers/employees is affected (both in positive and negative ways) by social networking; and that there are more positive than negative effects of social networking; and,
    4) That since, there are more positive effects of social networking, "control" rather than "absolute prohibition" will be resorted to by the DFA when it comes to information management system.

Abstract:

In view of the emergence of *Yahoo Messenger, Friendster, Facebook, MySpace,* and *Twitter*, among others, and due to the undeniable need for computers, most, if not all, government officers and employees work in front of computers, and communicate to many different people using the internet.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is the government agency primarily responsible and designed to implement Philippine foreign policy. It is engaged in matters of bilateral and/or multilateral application as between and among the Philippines and other countries. In other words, it deals with more than 200 countries of the world and so many international organizations.

The DFA had, in one instance, regulations in accessing many social networks and internet sites. But since research and information-gathering constitute the lifeblood of the DFA, access to the world wide web could almost always be justified and must be presumed to be regular.

This paper will deal mainly on the effects of social networking on the DFA's performance as such, and its employees' work ethic and relations with those of other government agencies and the public. It will also provide suggested regulatory measures that may be applicable to or workable for other government

agencies. The scope (Department of Foreign Affairs) of the paper has been limited in a manner so as to avoid making general/motherhood statements as regards government and public officials. Also, taking into consideration the probability of getting response from all other government agencies, it would be more realistic to get answers right from people who work for a specific agency only.

The results of this study, as will later on be stated on this paper, are *without* any intention to generalize the concept or manner of information management in the RP Government. Conclusions are purely recommendatory and academic.

METHOD. In addition to library research, the Assistant Secretaries (ASec)/Heads of *Office of Personnel and Administrative Services* (OPAS), *Office of Legal Affairs* (OLA), and *Management Information System* (MIS) office of the DFA have been kindly requested to complete a questionnaire {composed of three (3) questions}, in view of their stature and expertise on the law, human resource, and information system management. Questions include 1) the manner by which social networking affect the ethics of DFA officers/employees; 2) recommendations how to heighten the moral standards of DFA officers/employees; and, 3) instance/s that is/are considered "unethical" for a DFA officer/employee to do. All three questions with respect only to social networking as defined.

The author will also be indicating her own observations, views and theories which are in no way conclusive but are supported by examples, facts, and research materials.

Definition of Terms. The following terms, as technically defined, will be used in this paper. Sources indicated in blue. All other words such as "ethics", "morals" and the like, are automatically defined ordinarily:

Civil Service Commission- a government agency which deals with civil service matters and conflict resolution. It is tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the integrity of government actions and processes. The commission was originally founded in 1900 and was solidified as a bureau in 1905. Along with the Commission on Elections and Commission on Audit the CSC is part of the Constitutional Commissions of the Philippine Government. There are currently 15 regional offices located throughout the country. Ricardo Saludo is the chairperson of the Civil Service Commission.[1]
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Service_Commission_(Philippines)

Government- includes the National Government, the local governments, and all other instrumentalities, agencies or branches of the Republic of the Philippines including government-owned or controlled corporations, and their subsidiaries. (In this study, however, "Government" would be limited to the "Department of Foreign Affairs").
According to Republic Act No. 6713

Public Officials- include elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the career or non-career service, including military and police personnel, whether or not they receive compensation, regardless of amount.
According to Republic Act No. 6713

Social Network- a website, or network of websites, specifically established to allow end users to communicate directly with each other on topics of mutual interest.
http://www.onlinematters.com/glossary.htm

-locations on the Internet where individuals can contact other individuals, share information, join groups, promote their businesses, etc.
www.no2pen.com/blog/2010/01/social-media-dictionary-for-small-businesses/

-colloquial expression for network communities that allow their users to generate and exchange own contents via internet platforms.
www.online-bookable.com/glossar.html