

Telephone interview with Sherry Korczynski  
4/16/08, 1 p.m.  
753 Engineering Sciences Building

*Interview start time: 1 p.m.*

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder. Also explained that information may be made public through Freedom of Information Act requests. Asked Sherry for background information.

RN: Let's follow up on this e-mail that you sent me. If you don't mind, just for our benefit – could you please give us your background, degrees, where they are from, how you got to Mylan.

Sherry Korczynski: I'm from the Pittsburgh area. I went and did my undergrad at Penn State. I received a B.S. in Marketing 1991 from Penn State. I joined Lilly in 1992. In 1995, early in 1995, I heard about this new eMBA program. I sent in an enrollment form and application. I graduated in December 1997 as part of the inaugural class. I was with Lilly a little over 15 years in various capacities. I joined Mylan this past winter.

*RN: You were in the first cohort?*

SK: Yes, I was.

*RN: Did you start with the whole class?*

SK: Yes.

RN: Would you tell us how that went? You are speaking to a note [e-mail] about contradictory comments regarding work experience...

SK: What specifically would you like me to speak to?

RN: You say you got credit for work experience.

SK: No, I did not receive credit for work experience.

Michael Lastinger: You said you received credit for your entire last semester through independent study.

SK: Yes.

*ML: Describe what you mean by independent study.*

SK: I was promoted in early summer 1997 with Lilly. It required me to move from West Virginia to Philadelphia. So I was potentially not going to be able to finish the last four classes of the eMBA.

*ML: If you had not finished those classes, would you not be able to graduate?*

SK: Not until I talked to Speaker.

*RN: He worked with you to get those classes done as independent. [REDACTED]. Are those the ones we're talking about?*

SK: Yes.

*ML: Do you recall exactly what arrangements were made?*

SK: When I found out I had to make a move, I went to Paul Speaker. Speaker made it real clear – he wanted enrollees, graduates. He wanted to show success to secure the future of the program. He said he would work with me on how to accommodate my unique situation so that I could graduate in lieu of classroom attendance. Speaker authorized completion of final semester through independent study.

*RN: Did you interact with faculty?*

SK: I interacted with him. I did coursework along with the syllabi of the work that was to be completed in the classes. I worked on writing a [REDACTED] plan. I submitted that to my professor. I did complete the coursework. I did the projects and wrote some research projects. Now, the one thing is in the [REDACTED] course – I had a lot of trouble keeping up with that course. I went to Speaker. I was struggling to keep up. I said, 'What can be done?' He came back to me. I had no interface with the professor. He [Speaker] said, if you can pick a [REDACTED] topic and do a research project and submit to me, I will grade it. That's how I did complete one of those courses.

*ML: Do you recall the grade you received?*

SK: An [REDACTED]

*ML: Do you recall any projects?*

SK: Yes, I recall one specific project – I did a project on [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] was in its inception. I did an independent study and submitted that to Speaker.

*ML: Were other faculty members involved in these courses and completing this final semester?*

SK: I did not have regular contact with the faculty members. I had the syllabus. I bought the books. I sent in work to the professors.

*RN: Did they respond to you? Did you hear back from them?*

SK: I would get a grade.

SL: I was not working or interfacing with the team or the whole class. I read the [Post-Gazette] article on April 9. When I read it, I was not shocked by Heather's comments. I was shocked by Speaker's comments – the strictness of the program, depicting an environment that it was so strict when my situation, which was unique – mine was different. At the end of the day, when you are starting a new program, things are more lenient. Everybody had to have more flexibility – instructors, students. 12 years later, I'm sure it's stricter than when I went in the program in the mid 1990s. I wrote the letter because I thought it was important for you to know that Dr. Speaker did provide a lot of flexibility. The atmosphere was not so strict.

ML: We appreciate that.

*ML: Part of this thing is financial records. We have your transcript and financial records. We don't have financial records for 1996. We have a hypothesis, there was a change of records systems at that time. When you registering, do you remember how you were paying? Was [REDACTED] paying? Were you with [REDACTED]?*

SK: I had to pay, and I was reimbursed a certain amount. Once I submitted grades, [REDACTED] would reimburse me personally the amount that they allowed.

*ML: You registered for this course work – this mystery – 1996 – there is not a financial record of your enrolling in those courses. We have an academic record. We think the system from which it is drawing records was changed at that time. But you remember paying and enrolling in a normal manner?*

SK: Yes, absolutely.

*RN: Is there anything else you would like to tell us?*

SK: As I stated in my letter to you, I do believe that the goal of the program was met when Dr. Speaker found a way for me to finish while I was advancing my career. There was a lot of flexibility. I have other examples of how there was more flexibility than commented in the papers. He was very accommodating to personal needs; I took courses with my peers in Charleston. I worked half of the week in the Northern part of the state. I, along with others, I was permitted to take courses away from my classes and my teammates that I was in the group with.

*ML: That is really very helpful. I don't think the other Panel members will want to talk to you. But if they would, would you be willing to talk to entire Panel?*

SK: Yes, absolutely. I was shocked by Speaker's comments. They weren't consistent with my experience. I can't speak to what it is now, only what it was then. He was very accommodating to what our needs were.

Interview ending time: 1:12 p.m.