

Interview with Linda Sypolt
1/18/08, 2 p.m.
203 Chitwood

Interview start time: 1:54 p.m.

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder.

RN: Describe overview of service in the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics.

Linda Sypolt: Started teaching in 1975. Graduated from law school. Teaches business law on undergrad and grad levels. Started as part time instructor. Now full time faculty member. Assistant professor. Last 20 years, taught in MBA program. Typically teaches three-hour business law environment class. Used to teach in eMBA program. Taught two-hour business law class. Has not taught in eMBA program for several years. Found evening hours difficult.

RN: [Refers to BUE 4], Asks Sypolt about her [redacted] and [redacted].

Michael Lastinger: Asks about difference between [redacted] and [redacted]

LS: Not sure what [redacted] hour course was. Courses don't run with normal WVU semesters. (Refers to personal gradebook). Knows that student was Heather Kirby at the time. For Fall 1997 course, received a [redacted]

LS: However, in the other course [redacted], she did not attend classes more than once and did not take an exam. Has records on disks that her computer no longer reads. No record of student taking exam. Several students completed exams late. One student completed exam in September [1997]. Grade was changed for that student.

RN: Would you commit that information in a note to the panel and sign it?

LS: Agrees.

ML: Would you give an exam to a student who did not attend class?

LS: "Depends." Students in program keep odd schedules. Can obtain tape of class. There was one class during semester that students were required to come.

RN: Would these tapes of class still exist? Would it show a picture of the class?

LS: Yes, the tapes probably still would exist. But it would probably only show the instructor. Technology was another reason that she stopped teaching in the program. Not sure what's on the tapes. If students missed class, could obtain tape – review it. "People were often sent away unexpectedly on business."

RN: *Why would whole class receive NR?*

LS: Everyone would receive NR on grade sheet – when grades were entered. Would give everyone an NR and go back. Did grade mods on all students. Later on, would receive list of grades.

RN: *How much time would pass before you decide that it's too late for a grade mod?*

LS: After a certain point, either gave "I" or "F." Gave "I" as long as had done some work.

RN: *So you gave an "I" if that person was expected to finish. Was there an incomplete contract?*

LS: No contracts at all. Made assumptions on "I" grades, unless contacted by student. Circled [REDACTED] students in gradebook [REDACTED]

RN: *Can we have a copy of your paper gradebook? Did you also keep an Excel spreadsheet?*

LS: Had electronic records, too. Didn't think would be needed down the line. Stuck everything in gradebook.

RN: *Could you write a page report and commit it to writing and attach a copy of your gradebook?*

LS: Agrees. Has dates of class meetings in gradebook. Attendance. Exam grades.

ML: *Were there other students who came to one class and finished the course?*

[Refers to gradebook]

LS: Had other students who had attended one class, and did not complete classwork. Those who did receive grades had better attendance. Sypolt keeping attendance records was "shaky." For Morgantown cohort, very good at keeping attendance. There were other students who only attended class once and completed the course.

ML: *So other students attended once, and received a letter grade?*

LS: Yes. Students turned in work late.

LS: First class – 4/29/97. Last class – 5/27/97. In other class with Bresch as student ([REDACTED], her "attendance was not great." Did well on assignment. "Looks like [in the [REDACTED] class], I didn't give her [REDACTED]"

ML: Is there anyone else that you did not give a grade to?

LS: Yes. [REDACTED] Did not turn in test, attended classes, completed extra credit. [REDACTED] took class at another time, went to law school. Did not turn in test, but attended classes.

RN: How many students were in the class?

LS: Depends. In Morgantown class, had 20 names on the original roster. Some students dropped. In Charleston, had 18 students. All Charleston students finished the class.

RN: Anything else you would like to add?

LS: "I don't remember the girl. I don't remember the class, really, either." Will look for disks.

RN: Will provide computer if Sypolt can find disks.

Interview ending time: 2:17 p.m.