Business

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Northwest fees questioned

By Adam Geller

Employees troubled by pay ruling Some workers feel that new overtime rules will devour the positions they hold.

The complaints began even before University of Wisconsin-Madison administrators announced that more than 400 employees would lose what might have seemed to them, at first blush, a sweet deal.

The complaints were made by Northwest Airlines' staff of flight attendants. They had heard that the airline's parent company, Northwest Airlines Corp., planned to raise flight attendants' pay.

So the flight attendants thought they were getting a bonus. The university's administrators thought they were compensating for a state law that requires colleges to pay their employees the same as the pay scale in the private sector.

At least, that was what the University of Wisconsin-Madison's administrators thought. Now they are wondering what they have done to anger the flight attendants.

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