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Photo: Brian Ching

If CFOs ran companies

Finance chiefs are seeing their stars rise while traditional bosses are out of favour, writes *Nury Vittachi*



Happy recession, everybody! Today, boys and girls, we are going to look at a major benefit of the financial downturn.

Before the economic slump started, the board of directors' favourite staff member was the chief executive officer, the person growing the company.

But today, their favourite staff member is the chief financial officer, usually a tough-minded accountant going around destroying expansionist projects with a large axe, often literally.

What would happen if CFOs were in charge of all the management decisions from now on?

The staff manual, as re-written by the CFO:

Dental coverage: To save costs, from now on all tooth extractions will be done by the engineering department.

Blood donation: Employees are reminded NOT to volunteer to donate blood. Blood donation will be considered theft of company property.

Sick leave: From now on, sick leave must be booked six weeks in advance. Nobody will be allowed to be sick without prior booking. The only exception will be death. Staff members who die will only need to give four weeks' notice.

Maternity leave: To facilitate cost savings, all employee positions that come with contractual maternity leave provisions will be filled by men. All men who become pregnant will be entitled to full maternity leave provisions as required by law.

Coffee breaks: As the kitchen has been closed, staff members are recommended to drink a day's worth of coffee before coming to the office.

Overtime pay: Staff members who work more than the official number of working hours will be paid extra. However, the official number of working hours from now on will be 24 per day.

Child labour: All underage workers on our factory lines have been sacked. However, the "Bring Your Daughter to Work Day" tradition will now be celebrated all year round, for both sexes. We suggest you drop your children off at the human resources department every morning at 6:00 a.m. and collect them at 6:00 p.m.

Office supplies: Auditors have calculated that staff purloin 12,273 kilos of office supplies items every year. Each staff member will therefore be required to bring one packet of A4 paper and 2.3 kilos of miscellaneous items from their home to the office every week.

Holiday leave: Any holidays not taken within six months of being earned will be forfeited. No holidays will be approved unless they have been booked 18 months in advance.

Fire and theft insurance: Staff will be pleased to hear we have obtained a cheaper insurance contract. From now on, the insurance company will only cover the cost of staff items that have been stolen while on fire.

Compassionate leave: This will no longer be allowed, as the new management has been unable to understand this concept.

Minimum wage: A competition will be held for all unit leaders to see who can pay their staff members the lowest wage. The winners will get their salaries on time.

Toilet breaks: To remove the temptation of wasting time in the toilets, all toilets have been removed. Please use the facilities at home before coming to work.

If any employee has any questions about the new arrangements, please write them on paper and deliver them to the factory furnace.

Thank you and enjoy your week.

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