

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Faculty Affairs Committee

DATE: October 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of revised sabbatical policy

WHEREAS, there has been confusion regarding procedures in evaluating applications for sabbatical leaves,

WHEREAS, a number of faculty applications for sabbatical leaves in the Fall 2021 semester have been denied despite providing necessary documentation as evidence warranting for granting of leaves,

WHEREAS, decisions to decline sabbatical leaves were issued regardless of the denied faculty applications having demonstrably met the requirements and protocols established by their respective departments and SD 06-14: Sabbatical Leaves

WHEREAS, policies related to sabbatical leaves are currently distributed in SD 06-14 (recently updated by SD 21-39), SD 06-19, SD 12-9, and SD 18-16 which may cause confusion;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate adopt the attached policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution supersedes all earlier sabbatical procedure documents.

SABBATICAL LEAVES

Purdue University Fort Wayne's mission includes the search for new knowledge, excellent teaching, and service to the university, profession, and community. In order to maintain and continue the high level of academic excellence necessary to support this mission, it is important for the faculty to periodically update and strengthen their professional skills. A sound program of sabbatical leaves is thus of vital importance to the University in that it provides for this continued professional growth and new or renewed intellectual achievement through significant study, research, and writing that cannot easily be done while engaged in the ongoing duties of a faculty member.

A sabbatical leave is not a leave which a faculty member automatically "earns" by having been employed for a given period of time. Rather, it is an investment by the University in the expectation that the sabbatical leave will significantly enhance the faculty member's capacity to contribute to the objectives of the University. For this reason, all periods of sabbatical leave count as full-time service to the University and will be approved only if there is adequate reason to believe that they will achieve this purpose. Candidates should know that the way this belief is evaluated will be based on the presentation (via narrative, CV, and/or department support letters) of a candidate's scholarly productivity in recent years. If a candidate has devoted considerable time to service, teaching-related work, or other activity at the expense of research productivity, they should plan to explain this.

A statement of goals for the sabbatical, an outline of the type of evidence that will be used to demonstrate how those goals will be achieved, and a statement of the proposed use of the applicant's time during the sabbatical period are required as part of the sabbatical application. Acceptable programs for the use of time may include:

1. Research on significant issues and problems, including pedagogical issues.
2. Important creative or descriptive work in any means of expression, for example, writing, painting, and so forth.
3. Retraining in new domains of scholarship or creative endeavor in one's discipline. Such retraining may be used to enhance one's scholarship and/or one's teaching capabilities.

Each department or division should establish specific criteria for the granting of sabbatical leaves that will serve as the basis of evaluation for applications coming from that department or division, and that are consistent with the above guidelines.

Before being evaluated by the Professional Development Subcommittee, applications for sabbatical leave must have been reviewed to ensure that the applications meet the guidelines specified in this document by appropriate administrators (chair/dean or director). A departmental or division faculty committee (e.g., the Promotion and Tenure or Personnel Committee) must make a written recommendation about sabbatical applications to the appropriate administrator at that level, which must factor into the Professional Development Subcommittee's evaluation process. The administrator will consider this recommendation in his or her own recommendation that is forwarded to the next level.

The Professional Development Subcommittee is responsible for recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs regarding sabbatical leave applications. The Professional Development Subcommittee should follow only this document and department criteria in evaluating sabbatical applications. The Professional Development Subcommittee operates as an independent faculty committee. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs makes final decisions

regarding sabbatical leave applications. Process questions should be brought to the Professional Development Subcommittee for guidance. Denied applications should be given clear and individualized explanations, which may be brief in cases where the application instructions were not followed, for the rejection of their applications with an opportunity to respond.

Within one semester (or six months for fiscal year faculty) of the conclusion of the leave, a report describing the accomplishments of the sabbatical period must be submitted by the recipient to the department chair or program director to whom they report. The Chair forwards the report to the next level, usually the Dean or Director, who forwards the report to the Office of Academic Affairs. This report must outline how the sabbatical period was used, what outcomes were achieved, and indicate further outcomes that are expected as a result of the sabbatical project. All such reports must be included with subsequent sabbatical applications. Information about the outcome of previous sabbaticals will be used to evaluate subsequent sabbatical applications.

Administrators who hold faculty rank should follow the normal faculty process to be granted a sabbatical, and have the normal faculty obligations attached to taking a sabbatical.