

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to meet the objectives of faculty development as outlined in the Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.102, to provide a sound program of faculty development leaves of absence designed to enable the faculty member to engage in study, research, writing, and similar projects for the purpose of adding to the knowledge available to the faculty member, the students, and the institution. Faculty Development Leaves shall be awarded on the basis of merit and are subject to the availability of funding.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.01 Eligible Faculty

- a. For purposes of this policy, "faculty member" means a person who is employed by Sam Houston State University on a full-time basis as a member of the faculty or staff and whose duties include teaching, research, administration, including professional librarians, or the performance of professional services. This term does not include a person employed in a position that is in the institution's classified personnel system.
- b. Faculty members are eligible to apply for a Faculty Development Leave when they have:
 - (1) completed seven consecutive years of meritorious academic service with Sam Houston State University as an instructor, assistant, associate, or full professor, or an equivalent, and if applicable
 - (2) completed a minimum of six consecutive years of meritorious academic service with Sam Houston State University since receiving an award of a Faculty Development Leave, and as outlined in this policy, and if applicable
 - (3) submitted acceptable reports from all previous development leaves to their chair.

2.02 Funding

- a. Faculty Development Leaves may be funded from the appropriations specifically for that purpose or from such other funds as might be available to the institution. Appropriated funding for faculty developmental leaves is authorized by Title 3, Chapter 51, Section 51.105 of the Texas Education Code.
- b. Under Title 3, Chapter 51, Section 51.106, not more than 6 percent of the faculty members of any institution of higher education may be on faculty developmental leaves at any one time. Practically, the available funding permits a much smaller percentage of available faculty leaves.

2.03 The Faculty Development Leave Committee (FDLC) shall consist of nine tenured faculty members elected by a vote of the general faculty from nominations submitted to the University Faculty Senate (UFS) at an election conducted during the spring semester. The Faculty Development Leave Committee acts only in an advisory capacity to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. It makes recommendations but makes no awards in its own right.

2.04 The President may grant a Faculty Development Leave when, in his/her judgment, to do so is in the best interest of the University.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.01 Upon receipt of applications by the appropriate academic unit, each administrative officer will have fourteen days to forward leave application materials with or without comment.

3.02 Calendar

- a. November 22 – Applicants will submit their completed application packet to the chair of their academic unit. A Faculty Development Leave application packet is attached to this policy.

- b. November 29 – Deadline for the chair to verify the applicants' eligibility, provide comments, and forward application packets to office of the dean/director.
- c. December 6 – Deadline for the dean/director to review and provide comments on the application packets. The dean/director should forward the application packet, along with comments, to the Office of the Provost.
- d. December 8 – The Office of the Provost will forward complete application packets to each member of the FDLC.
- e. January 13 – Deadline for FDLC to forward comments and rankings to the Office of the Provost.
- f. January 26 – Deadline for the Provost to forward completed packets and recommendations to the Office of the President.
- g. March 1 – All faculty members submitting applications for developmental leave will be notified in writing of the acceptance or rejection of their application. Faculty members should contact the Office of the Provost and VPAA to view file comments.

3.03 In order to be considered for future Faculty Development Leaves, applicants not receiving leaves must submit updated applications for reconsideration for any succeeding semester(s).

4. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE COMMITTEE

4.01 Selection of Committee

- a. In order that the committee may commence its work in November of each year, elections for the committee will be conducted in the spring prior to the appointed semester.
- b. Should a vacancy occur on the FDLC, the Faculty Senate shall designate a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

4.02 Committee Duties

- a. The FDLC will review application deadlines and provide to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs recommended necessary calendar changes. To provide faculty the optimum preparation time, the FDLC should make recommended calendar changes each spring for the fall awarding period. Normally, the application deadline will be no later than November 1 of the fall semester, and faculty will be notified of development leave awards by March 1.
- b. The FDLC will use the evaluation form found in the application packet to provide ranking scores and comments of each application packet to the Office of the Provost.

4.03 Ranking Criteria

- a. Eligible faculty interested in academic pursuits to study pedagogy, conduct research, develop writing projects, conduct field observation, and/or enhance one's discipline are encouraged to apply for development leaves.
- b. The following general criteria will be used by the FDLC to evaluate the application:
 - (1) The applicant presents a comprehensive and feasible scheme of work that will enhance the applicant's knowledge and ability in terms of teaching, scholarship, or service and which is consistent with the needs of the University. Notwithstanding Section 6.02, external endorsement of projects in the form of matching or partial funding from appropriate external sources will count strongly in this evaluation. However, such support is neither necessary nor mandated for a successful application. (50%)
 - (2) The applicant specifies a clear set of outcomes and/or deliverables to be made at the completion of the project and for which the candidate is responsible. (30%)

- (3) The applicant makes a convincing case that she/he will successfully accomplish the project. Such a case may be made on the basis of “track record” (a fully documented prior record in the same or in a cognate field of activity) or, in order to facilitate development and experimentation in new fields, by a comprehensively justified new plan that is endorsed by the applicant’s immediate supervisor. (20%)

5. ADMINISTRATION DUTIES

5.01 Departmental Duties

- a. Faculty development leaves are authorized for the purpose of increasing the value of the recipient’s sustained contributions to the department/school and the University by providing the individual an opportunity for professional growth.
- b. In most cases, the academic department/school will assume the work of an individual granted leave. If the academic department/school is unable to absorb the load of a faculty member who is awarded a development leave, the chair will consult with the dean to develop a funding plan or to recommend against approval.
- c. Upon receiving the application packet, the chair should provide comments and a score and then forward the packet to the dean of the college.

5.02 Duties of the Dean/Director

- a. Upon receiving the application packet, the dean/director should provide comments and a score in the application sections titled, “Dean/Director Statement.”
- b. Once completed, the application packet should be forwarded to the Office of the Provost.

5.03 Duties of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- a. The Office of Academic Affairs will notify the faculty of the deadlines for applying for developmental leaves.
- b. The Provost will forward complete application packets to each member of the FDLC.
- c. The Provost shall make final recommendations for leaves, if any, to the President.
- d. Each of the application files, along with administrator's comments and rankings, shall be maintained for one calendar year. Files including administrator and committee comments should be made readily available to the submitting faculty member.
- e. Successful application packets may be used by the University for such purposes as training and public relations.
- f. The Office of the Provost and VPAA will maintain a small reference collection of examples of successful applications that will serve as models for future applicants.

5.04 Duties of the President

- a. The President shall make recommendations for leaves, if any, to the Board of Regents.
- b. Upon action by the Board of Regents, the President will provide written notification of the Board's actions to all applicants and FDLC.

6. PROGRAM CONDITIONS

- 6.01 Faculty members may have a Faculty Development Leave for one academic year at one-half their regular salary, or for one-half academic year at their full salary. (An academic year is defined as the nine-month period contained in the fall and spring semesters; development leaves are not authorized for summer sessions.)

- 6.02 It is not required that faculty members obtain matching funds to be eligible for development leave; however, faculty members who are granted development leave are encouraged to seek additional funding from authorized and appropriate external sources.
- 6.03 Recipients of Faculty Development Leaves must submit a written report of their activity to the appropriate departmental chair, dean, and the Provost. The report, not to exceed three pages in length, should explain activities undertaken while on leave and the perceived benefits to both the faculty member and the institution. The report will indicate whether any possible patentable or copyrightable intellectual property was created during the leave.
- 6.04 Recipients of leaves must submit a written report of their activity while on leave by May 1 for a fall semester leave and by November 1 for a spring semester leave. Those on a full year leave must submit a progress report at the mid-leave reporting period and a final report by November 1.
- 6.05 A faculty member on Faculty Development Leave may accept a grant or stipend for study, research, or travel from any institution of higher education, charitable, religious, or educational corporation or foundation; from any business enterprise; or from any state, federal, or local government. However, the Board of Regents must approve specifically any outside employment.
- 6.06 If the conditions under which the proposed development leave was approved should change, the Provost should be notified within a reasonable time. If the new circumstances require a substantial change in the project, the Provost will refer the matter to the Faculty Development Leave Committee for recommendation.
- 6.07 Faculty members on Faculty Development Leave will retain their rights and eligibility for benefits to hospitalization, medical insurance, income protection, life insurance, and other such programs in force for full-time faculty members. Although faculty members on leave will be eligible for benefits, if the leave is for half-time the faculty member will be required to pay a portion of the cost. The faculty member should visit with a Human Resources representative to determine exact cost. The University

administration shall cause to be deducted from their salaries the members' cost of such programs as are legal.

- 6.08 Exceptions to the policies and procedures set forth above may be authorized only by the President of the University as authorized by the Board of Regents, The Texas State University System, or by action of the Board of Regents. The activities of the year on leave may be considered for merit, if such advances are warranted using the existing faculty evaluation system.
- 6.09 The faculty member may petition, in writing, the President of the University through the appropriate program coordinator and/or chair, dean/Director of the Newton Gresham Library, and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to have the approved leave of absence count as service.
- 6.10 Petitions for merit or service time must be approved prior to the faculty member's departure on the leave of absence. If the faculty member's request to have an approved leave of absence apply toward merit or service is approved by the President, such approval will be in writing and will be limited to a period of one academic year.
- 6.11 Faculty members having signed a legal agreement to serve one full academic year after completion of the leave shall be required to reimburse the University in the amount they receive as salary and fringe benefits from the State while on leave if they should refuse to fulfill the year of service after the leave. As a condition of receipt of the leave, a faculty member must execute a contract that provides the University a legal remedy should he/she refuse to fulfill the year of service after the leave. Permanent disability attested to by a medical doctor, selected by the University, could constitute basis for exemption.

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Attachment 3

Attachment 4

Attachment 5

Attachment 6

APPROVED: _____ /s/
James F. Gaertner, President

DATED: _____ 10/28/06

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents Sam Houston State University's Division of Academic Affairs' APS from the date of this document until superseded.

Original Date: August 30, 1982
Reviewer(s): Council of Academic Deans
Academic Policy Council

Review Cycle: December, ENY*
Review Date: December 1, 2006

Approved: _____ /s/
David E. Payne
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Date: _____ 10/28/06

*=Even Numbered Year