

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

Sabbatical Leave Calendar¹

September 15:	Sabbatical leave information sent to faculty.
October 15:	Sabbatical requests due to Chairs.
November 7:	Chairs submit sabbatical requests, including a ranking of all proposals with comments, to Deans for distribution to Office of the Provost and School Reviewing Committees.
November 15:	Deans should send one copy of each proposal to Office of the Provost.
December 15:	School Reviewing Committees submit evaluations of proposals to their Dean.
January 15:	Deans submit ranked recommendations, with comments, to Office of the Provost.
February 15:	Provost consults with President and notifies tenured faculty of sabbatical leave decisions.
March 15:	Provost notifies those faculty members under tenure review of sabbatical leave decisions.
Within two weeks notification:	Applicant submits signed sabbatical agreement or notifies Office of the Provost in writing that sabbatical will not be taken. ²
Within 2 months of return from sabbatical:	Faculty member submits final report including product.
Within two semesters of returning from sabbatical	Faculty member presents results of the leave to an audience at the leave: College of Charleston

¹ When any date falls on a weekend, the deadline will be the next business day after that date.

² Any requests for deferral or change in a sabbatical must be made in accordance with policy.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

OFFICIAL DIVISIONAL POLICY

Academic Affairs Division

Sabbatical Leave Policy

Contents

- 0.0 [Calendar](#)
- 1.0 [Purpose](#)
- 2.0 [Procedure](#)
- 3.0 [Guidelines](#)
- 4.0 [Completion of the Sabbatical](#)
- 5.0 [Policy Manager and Responsible Department or Office](#)
- 6.0 [Departments/Offices Affected by This Policy](#)
- 7.0 [Procedures Related to This Policy](#)
- 8.0 [Related Policies, Documents or Forms](#)
- 9.0 [Review Schedule](#)

1.0 **Purpose**

1.1 **Definition**

Sabbatical leave is paid time exempt from normal duties granted to faculty members for the accomplishment of professional development programs.

1.2 **Eligibility**

Tenured faculty members and Senior Instructors in their sixth successive full academic year of full-time academic service at the College of Charleston since initial appointment or since a previous sabbatical leave may apply for sabbatical leave to commence during the following year. Unless specifically requested and granted by the Provost at the time a leave of absence was taken, years of leave do not count toward the six successive years of full time service required for a sabbatical leave. Unless otherwise indicated in an appointment letter, years in a visiting appointment do not count towards the six years of full-time service.

1.3 **Purpose**

Sabbatical leave is paid time exempt from normal instructional and service duties granted to faculty members to engage in intensive research and creative activities and professional development programs, thus facilitating their growth as a scholar and teacher.

1.4 **Duration and Pay**

Sabbatical leave may be granted for the academic year at two-thirds of the base salary or for one semester at full salary. Normally, a faculty member on sabbatical leave will relinquish all

administrative duties (and associated stipends) in which he or she might otherwise be engaged. Faculty members anticipating a sabbatical are encouraged to secure funding for their sabbatical projects through external grants. Normally, compensation for services including sabbatical leave salary during the period may not exceed the faculty member's salary for an equivalent period at the College. During the sabbatical leave, the College will continue both payroll deductions and employer's contributions, as determined by the sabbatical year salary, for medical insurance, FICA, retirement and any other programs that may be applicable.

Sabbatical leave comprises an investment by the College in the long-term productivity of the faculty member. A faculty member must agree to return to the College of Charleston for one academic year of service following the academic year during which the sabbatical is taken, or repay all compensation (base salary, plus the College's share of fringe benefits) received from the College during the sabbatical. Faculty members accepting a sabbatical leave must sign a written statement to this effect.

2.0 Procedure

2.1 Initial Solicitation

The call for sabbatical proposals will be issued by the Office of the Provost each fall, typically by September 15.

2.2 Role of the Faculty Member

An eligible faculty member who wishes to apply for sabbatical leave will prepare a formal proposal using the guidelines that follow (Sections 3.2 and 3.3) as an outline.

2.3 Role of the Department Chair

Each proposal shall be reviewed by the faculty member's Department Chair (or, if appropriate, the Program Director if the Program Director is the faculty member's supervisor). If necessary, the Chair will discuss the sabbatical leave plan with the applicant. The Chair will provide a written recommendation that explains the conditions under which she/he would approve or reject the request. The Chair will also include a statement indicating how the department will cover the courses normally taught by the faculty member seeking sabbatical leave. The Chair's recommendation will be submitted with the faculty member's application to the appropriate academic Dean.

Any proposal that the Chair cannot support will be returned to the faculty member with an explanation. Within ten days of receiving a negative recommendation from a Chair, a faculty member may appeal to the Dean who will decide whether or not to include the proposal among those she or he recommends to the Provost. (See Section 2.5.)

2.4 Role of the School Reviewing Committee

Each Dean will appoint a committee of faculty members within her or his school to review and evaluate requests and provide the Dean with appropriate feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal from their School.

2.5 Role of the Dean

After receiving all the completed proposals and accompanying recommendations from Department Chairs and the School Reviewing Committee, the Dean will rank the proposals. The Dean shall specifically confirm or revise, as necessary, the Department Chairs' plans for covering courses.

In a cover memo to the Provost accompanying the sabbatical requests, the Dean will indicate what funds, if any, are required to pay for courses that would be taught by the sabbatical applicant. This memo should indicate the cost to the department of the courses funded from within the department or school as well as any costs which the Provost will be asked to fund. The Dean will then submit the ranked proposals for consideration, along with any rejected proposals, to the Provost.

At this point, the Dean should notify an applicant if the applicant's request has been denied. Faculty may appeal denied sabbatical requests directly to the Provost. The appeal must be made within fifteen (15) working days of receiving the denial.

2.6 Role of the Provost and the President

Proposals for sabbatical leave are normally due from Deans to the Provost on November 15, with Deans' ranked recommendations and supporting comments due on January 15. Adjustments to this calendar may be made at the discretion of the Provost. The Provost will review recommendations for sabbatical leave based on the guidelines (see Section 3.0). While the goal of the Provost is to assure that the College is supporting quality proposals, the Provost can also be expected to review the total costs of sabbatical leaves in light of the institutional priorities. The Provost may deny sabbatical leave proposals that are otherwise acceptable and of high quality when she or he has decided that the institution does not have the funds to pay for additional instruction.

The Provost will make recommendations for sabbatical leaves to the President. In February, the Provost will notify each applicant in writing of the President's decision regarding the support of each proposal. The President's decision regarding the sabbatical application is final. Within two weeks of notification of the awarding of a sabbatical, the applicant must notify the Office of the Provost in writing as to whether or not the sabbatical will be taken and must return their signed sabbatical agreement by that date.

2.7 Delaying or Deferring a Sabbatical

A Program Director, Department Chair, and/or a Dean may recommend approval of a sabbatical request while recommending that the faculty member delay taking that sabbatical for one year. The basis for making such a recommendation should be the need to meet curricular requirements, and the delay should not count in determining eligibility for sabbatical in the future. This recommendation will be made by the Chair and Dean (or by the Dean) to the Provost. It takes effect with the approval of the Provost.

A faculty member who has been awarded a sabbatical may request a delay. The Chair, Dean and Provost will make every effort to accommodate the faculty member. The effect of the delay on the eligibility for future sabbaticals will be noted by a memorandum from the Provost approving the

delay. Otherwise, the delay will set back the eligibility for the next sabbatical. Applicability of this policy on deferrals to current Department Chairs and certain Program Directors is addressed below.

2.8 Changes in Terms of Awarded Sabbaticals

Once a sabbatical has been awarded, any requests for changes in the terms of the sabbatical (including deferrals and changes from full-year to a semester or vice-versa) must be made in writing through the Department Chair and Dean to the Office of the Provost. If a change is approved at all levels of review, the Office of the Provost will issue a new sabbatical award letter and new agreement form. Changes in sabbaticals are not in effect until the change request has been approved, the new sabbatical award letter issued, and the change accepted in writing by the faculty member. Change requests must be made at least 30 days in advance of the commencement of the approved sabbatical or the proposed revised sabbatical, whichever is earlier. Changes in sabbaticals that have already commenced will be considered only under extenuating circumstances, such as FMLA leave for a serious medical condition.

2.9 Sabbaticals by Department Chairs

A faculty member is normally *eligible to apply for a sabbatical leave* under the terms of the sabbatical policy while in her or his sixth year of full time academic service since initial appointment or since a previous sabbatical leave. Because of the leadership needs of departments, restrictions are placed on the sabbatical terms and conditions for a currently serving Department Chair, even if the faculty colleague is eligible in terms of years served. A Department Chair typically serves a first term of five years.

A Department Chair may not take a sabbatical leave during a first term as Chair. Plans for a sabbatical during a second term should be discussed with the Dean during any reappointment discussions. With the approval of the Dean, a Chair in a second term may apply through the usual process for a sabbatical. The Chair's sabbatical proposal and the recommendation by the Dean must include a description of how the Chair's duties will be covered during the period of the sabbatical.

In this case, deferrals are addressed as follows: A Chair who is eligible for a sabbatical during a term of appointment and who must delay a sabbatical, either because the term is the Chair's initial term of appointment or because, in a later term, in the Dean's judgment, the leadership needs of the department require that the Chair defer applying, may request that up to three years of deferral be counted toward eligibility for future sabbaticals. Approval of this request by the Dean and Provost will be dependent on evidence of ongoing research and the assessment of the Dean and Provost of the likelihood that the faculty member would be successful in an application for sabbatical.

As with other faculty on administrative appointments, a Chair relinquishes both the Chair's duties and compensation for the Chair's appointment while on sabbatical. That is, compensation during the sabbatical period is based on the faculty member's nine-month base salary according to the terms of the sabbatical policy.

In cases where a currently serving Program Director has supervisory responsibilities for tenure-track, tenured, or other roster faculty, the Dean may determine at any time, and for any reason or for no reason, subject to the review and determination of the Provost, that some or all of the

provisions of this Section shall be controlling for the sabbatical terms and conditions of a currently serving Program Director. A decision to do so shall be communicated by the Dean in writing to the Program Director. Such a decision may be appealed to the Provost; the decision of the Provost regarding such appeals is final.

3.0 Guidelines

3.1 **Applicability of the Guidelines**

The Department Chairs, School Reviewing Committee, Deans, and the Provost shall use the guidelines that follow as the basis for evaluating requests for sabbatical leave.

3.2 **Guidelines for Preparation of the Proposal**

A formal, typed sabbatical application should include the following four (4) items.

- a. *A cover letter.* The letter should include the project title, a very brief summary of the proposed use of the leave, and an indication of the period for which the sabbatical leave is requested (i.e., Fall, Spring, or full academic year).
- b. *A proposal.* The proposal may be up to four single spaced pages in length (with at least a 12-point font). It should offer a clear, well-organized, and detailed description of the individual's planned activities that can be understood by non-experts. In addition, the proposal should indicate clear anticipated outcomes (e.g., publication, acquisition of a new skill or competence, new course syllabi), and should address the criteria listed in section 3.3.
- c. A copy of the applicant's *Curriculum Vitae*.
- d. *Evidence regarding the accomplishments of the most recent sabbatical* (if applicable). Each applicant must include a copy of the final report from their most recent sabbatical. If the sabbatical produced additional results after the final report was submitted, it would be helpful to update the final report.

The completion of a sabbatical application containing these four (4) items is a minimum expectation for application consideration and does not assure a favorable decision where the application is concerned.

The applicant will disclose any additional salary she/he will receive as a direct result of the sabbatical leave. This statement will include a budget from any grants or similar proposals that the applicant has submitted in anticipation of a sabbatical leave. The applicant will report any changes in the external funds that she/he receives to the Department Chair, Dean, Office of the Provost, and the Office of Research and Grants Administration.

3.3 **Guidelines for Evaluation of Proposal**

A sabbatical leave proposal must be consistent with the candidate's plans for professional development as discussed with the Department Chair in prior years' annual evaluations. Proposals that involve pedagogical research, writing, or study are legitimate; however, revisions of courses are not acceptable. The following specific criteria for evaluation will be considered:

The Quality of the Project

- A. How significant is the project for the discipline or disciplines involved?
- B. How will the results benefit the College and the professional development of the investigator? Will the project result in desirable program changes, teaching innovation, publication, external funding, exhibition, and/or performance? In what form will this product be delivered to the College?
- C. Is the logic, methodology, or plan adequate to achieve the proposed results?
- D. Is the proposed time schedule realistic?
- E. Based on the evidence presented (including the proposal, the curriculum vitae, and faculty member's use of previous sabbaticals), is the faculty member likely to complete the project successfully?

The Quality of the Proposal

- A. Is the proposal clear, well-organized, and understandable to non-experts? Is the proposal complete and fully detailed in describing the project?
- B. Is the proposal well-written and carefully proofread?
- C. Does the proposal show familiarity (in references, bibliography, etc.) with the work that is most important to the proposed project?

The availability of internal or external funding is not a criterion for evaluating proposals.

4.0 Completion of the Sabbatical

All sabbatical recipients will submit a final report to the Office of the Provost within two months after returning to the College describing all activities and work conducted during the sabbatical leave as well as the degree of success achieved in meeting the objectives set forth in the application. Copies of this report should also be forwarded by the faculty member to the appropriate Program Director, Department Chair and Dean. Within two semesters after returning from sabbatical leave, the faculty member will present (some or all of) the results of the leave to an audience at the College of Charleston. Failure to submit a final report or failure to present the results of the sabbatical to an audience at the College will make the faculty member ineligible for future sabbaticals.

5.0 Policy Manager and Responsible Department or Office

Provost (or Provost's Designee), Office of the Provost

6.0 Departments/Offices Affected by this Policy

Office of the Provost

All Deans, Departments, and Academic Programs

7.0 **Procedures Related to this Policy**

None

8.0 **Related Policies, Documents or Forms**

Faculty/Administration Manual

Sabbatical Award Letter and Sabbatical Agreement Form

9.0 **Review Schedule**

Approved: August 2017

Next Review Date: October 1, 2022



Signed: _____

Brian R. McGee, Provost