

Example Abstracts for the Faculty Development Leave Program

Each faculty development leave (FDL) proposal is reviewed at the college or library level by a committee which includes faculty representation. Each application includes a brief abstract which is reviewed by the Board of Regents prior to approval of the leave.

These abstracts are limited to 100 words, must be written in the third person, **should be written for an educated layperson**, and must include:

- Place where leave will take place
- Activities that will take place during the leave
- Benefits of the leave to:
 - Research program
 - Students/teaching
 - Department, college and/or university
- Expected impacts (should be focused on effects beneficial to the University)

**Note: the abstract should not be composed of bullet points; the outline provided above is for guidance in composition only.*

Over the past several years, an increasing number of abstracts have been submitted which do not meet the Board of Regents' criteria listed above. This has resulted in many of the abstracts having to be re-written by the FDL liaisons for the college, or by DOF or TAMU System staff in order for the abstracts to be acceptable and the FDL to be granted to the faculty member.

Beginning in 2015, we will no longer re-write abstracts that fail to meet the Board of Regents' standards listed above. Abstracts which do not meet these standards will be returned to the faculty member who is applying for leave to be re-written. If the re-written abstract is submitted after October 23, or if the re-written abstract is not satisfactory to the committee, the faculty member will be denied leave.

In order to provide guidance to faculty members, department heads, college review committees, and deans, the following table contains a number of the abstracts which were edited and submitted to the Board of Regents last year, presented next to their original submitted form. The abstracts are organized by college. Faculty member's names have been removed, but the details of their leave have been left in place so as not to alter the meaning of the abstracts.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Before	After
<p>While assisting Roscoe Collegiate Independent School District (RCISD), I will learn qualitative research skills. The unique case of RCISD will serve as the primary context for my faculty development. RCISD has a new multi-million dollar STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) research laboratory and an on-campus veterinary clinic/teaching facility. I will serve as a participant observer to support increased STEM education through veterinary and animal sciences, plant science, and health science while studying the effects of the program on students, faculty members, administrators, and the larger community.</p> <p>I will collaborate to develop plans for replicating/scaling up in other communities and schools.</p>	<p>Leave will take place in the Roscoe Collegiate Independent School District (RCISD) in Roscoe, Texas, where Dr. XXX will enhance his qualitative research skills. RCISD has a new multi-million dollar STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) research laboratory and an on-campus veterinary clinic/teaching facility. Dr. XXX will serve as a participant and observer to support increased STEM education through veterinary and animal sciences, plant sciences, and health sciences while studying the effects of the program on students, faculty members, administrators, and the larger community. He plans to collaborate with other researchers to replicate STEM education in other communities and schools. Texas A&M students will benefit from Dr. XXX new knowledge and skills in qualitative research.</p>
<p>I propose taking a sabbatical in the Dept of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, in Edmonton, for fall 2015. The department contains several first-rate resource and environmental economists. Professor Vic Adamowicz is there, and I will benefit from working with him to further develop stated choice models (SCMs) to integrate risky choices. SCMs are commonly used to assess social preferences in areas such as transportation, where roads are not yet built. Students at A&M will benefit via my increased knowledge gained from working with Vic, as well as Pete Boxall, also at U of Alberta.</p>	<p>Dr. XXX's leave will take place in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta. The department consists of several first-rate resource and environmental economists, such as Professor Vic Adamowicz. Dr. XXX will benefit from working with this group of applied economists and sociologists to further develop Stated Choice Models (SCMs) to integrate risky choices. SCMs are commonly used to assess social preferences in areas such as transportation where roads are not yet built. Students at Texas A&M will benefit from the increased knowledge gained from working with cutting-edge research on the socio-economic aspects of managing natural resources.</p>
<p>The leave will occur at the INRA Center in Bordeaux, France. INRA is the leading European agricultural research institute and</p>	<p>Leave will take place at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) in Bordeaux, France, the leading</p>

<p>one of the foremost institutes in the world for agriculture, food and the environment. It is the second largest public research institute in France. I will collaborate with three scientists on a research project that will address critical uncertainties in Pine physiological responses to climate and advance the use of stable isotope tools to study this important linkage. The benefits include the development of a long-term international collaboration that will enhance the research and educational opportunities provided in my laboratory.</p>	<p>European agricultural research institute and one of the foremost institutes in the world for agriculture, food and the environment. Dr. XXX will collaborate with research scientists on a project that will address critical uncertainties in pine tree physiological responses to climate and advance the use of stable isotope tools to study this important linkage. The benefits include the development of a long-term international collaboration that will enhance the research and educational opportunities provided in Dr. XXX's laboratory.</p>
<p>Dr. XXX proposes to spend Fall 2015 semester at the University of Cambridge, UK. Dr. XXX's background is decomposition ecology. His proposed study will examine the microbe-insect interactions specifically with beetles demonstrating family traits and a dependency on dead animals for nutrition. He will determine if these beetles "farm" microbes for their antibiotic properties against pathogens of the beetle and other insects competing for these resources. Dr. XXX's proposed research on decomposition ecology could lead to the development of novel compounds for suppressing such antibiotic resistant pathogens as well as strategies for alternate protein production.</p>	<p>Dr. XXX will spend his leave at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Dr. XXX's background is decomposition ecology. He will examine the microbe-insect interactions, specifically with beetles demonstrating family traits and a dependency on dead animals for nutrition. He will determine if these beetles "farm" microbes for their antibiotic properties against pathogens of the beetle and other insects competing for these resources. Dr. XXX's proposed research on decomposition ecology could lead to the development of novel compounds for suppressing such antibiotic resistant pathogens, as well as strategies for alternate protein production. This leave will benefit Texas A&M by increasing the number of techniques that can be employed by Dr. XXX's students and opening new opportunities for institutional research collaborations.</p>
<p>Developments in synthetic biology at Colorado Sate University in Fort Collins, CO., allow for precision plant gene expression control. I propose to acquire expertise in this area to ultimately integrate this with our plant virus vector technology. A benefit includes providing state-of-the-art instruction to students in the laboratory and in my graduate courses. Benefits for the college and TAMU include a better positioning for funding acquisition and forming new linkages with scientists at CSU. The expected impact will be at the level of</p>	<p>Leave will take place at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colorado, allowing Dr. XXX to acquire expertise in the area of precision plant gene expression control. Dr. XXX will ultimately incorporate this control with his department's plant virus vector technology. A benefit includes providing state-of-the-art instruction to students in the laboratory and in his graduate courses. Benefits for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas A&M include better positioning for funding acquisition and forming new linkages with</p>

<p>innovative utilization of plant microbes at TAMU for production of new or higher levels of bio-based products.</p>	<p>scientists at CSU. The expected impact will be at the level of innovative utilization of plant microbes at Texas A&M for production of new or higher levels of bio-based products.</p>
<p>My specific interest is to gain skills in environmental history and evolutionary biology as related to understanding the development of concepts related to host:pathogen resistance in crop plants. The model I will focus on is tobacco mosaic virus and crop genetics. A primary benefit is to bring new knowledge to the students in Bioenvironmental Sciences (BESC) and University Honors. The benefits to COALS and TAMU include opportunities for new sources of federal funds, new collaborative efforts between TAMU and CSU, and integration of my research laboratory focus (virus:host interactions using model grasses) with my history of science research</p>	<p>Leave will take place at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colorado, where Dr. XXX will gain skills in environmental history and evolutionary biology to better understand the development of concepts pertaining to host: pathogen resistance in crop plants. The model she will focus on is tobacco mosaic virus and crop genetics. A primary benefit will be to bring new knowledge to the students in Bioenvironmental Sciences and University Honors. The benefits to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas A&M include opportunities for new sources of federal funds, new collaborative efforts between Texas A&M and CSU, and integration of Dr. XXX's research laboratory focus (virus: host interactions using model grasses) with her history of science research.</p>
<p>The purpose of this FDL is twofold. First, I will commence writing a textbook examining applications of latent variable modeling for understanding the human dimensions of natural resources. For the past seven years I have taught a class examining latent variable modeling and have an extensive collection of notes, readings, and presentations with data-based examples. The text would be based on this material. Second, along with my collaborators at the University of Waterloo, we will write a synthesis of the literature documenting the utility of the construct – ego involvement – for understanding sport, leisure, and tourism behavior</p>	<p>Dr. XXX's leave will take place at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He will commence writing a textbook examining the application of latent variable modeling for understanding the human dimensions of natural resources. For the past seven years he taught a class examining latent variable modeling and has an extensive collection of notes, readings, and presentations with data-based examples. The textbook will be based on that collection of material. Along with collaborators at the University of Waterloo, Dr. XXX will write a synthesis of the literature documenting the utility of the construct – ego involvement – for the use of students in understanding sport, leisure, and tourism behavior.</p>
<p>Leave will be used to work in San Marcos and other urban areas in Texas and the northeast. Research will be enhanced through work with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation</p>	<p>Leave will be used to work in San Marcos and other urban areas in Texas and the northeast, focusing on the role of parks and green infrastructure in urban design and their contributions to the quality of life</p>

<p>Assistance Program. I will consult with them on gathering data related to community participation, planning and design in urban park and trail projects. Teaching will be supported through site visits used to work on logistics for a new "high impact" field course. These activities support the mission of the college and the university. Impacts will be a research partnership, new educational materials and learning opportunities for students.</p>	<p>in urban areas. Research will be enhanced through work with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Dr. XXX will consult with them on gathering data related to community participation, planning and design in urban park and trail projects. Teaching will be supported through site visits used to work on logistics for a new "high-impact" field course. These activities support the mission of the college and the university. Impacts will be a research partnership, new educational materials and learning opportunities for students.</p>
<p>I request Faculty Development Leave to carry out and expand my current research and policy efforts in global biodiversity conservation. I propose time with three collaborating organizations: the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Program in Cambridge, UK; the Sapienza Università di Roma in Rome; and IUCN headquarters in Gland Switzerland. Research priorities will focus on completing an assessment of the conservation status of all of the world's mammals and generating peer-reviewed publications on the results. Prior collaborations have resulted in publications, funding for graduate programs, and grants and donor support to the College and Department.</p>	<p>Dr. XXX's leave will be spent with three collaborating organizations: the International Union for the Conservation of Nature headquarters in Gland, Switzerland; the Red List Program in Cambridge, UK; and the Sapienza Università di Roma in Rome, Italy. He will carry out and expand his current research and policy efforts in global biodiversity conservation. Research priorities will focus on completing an assessment of the conservation status of all of the world's mammals and generating peer-reviewed publications on the results. Collaborations are expected to result in publications, funding for graduate programs, and grants and donor support to the college and department.</p>
<p>The purpose of my FDL is two-fold: (1) Initiate a statewide survey of a rare bat species in California; and (2) lead development of an ornithology textbook. The bat research will directly benefit my teaching by advancing my knowledge beyond my core specialty of bird ecology, thus allowing me to bring experience with this species to my classes. Additionally, I was invited by Johns Hopkins University Press to lead a co-edited volume for undergraduate ornithology classes. This project will enhance my knowledge of ornithology which I can bring to the classroom, and bring recognition to TAMU in general.</p>	<p>Leave will take place in and around Arcata, California, home of Humboldt State University, where Dr. XXX will initiate a statewide survey of a rare bat species in California and lead development of an ornithology textbook. The bat research will directly benefit Dr. XXX teaching by advancing his knowledge beyond his core specialty of bird ecology, thus allowing him to bring experience with this species to his classes. Additionally, he was invited by Johns Hopkins University Press to lead a co-edited volume for undergraduate ornithology classes. This project will enhance Dr. XXX's knowledge of ornithology which he can bring to the</p>

	classroom and bring recognition to Texas A&M in general.
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