

October 9, 2024

Academic Leave

X.1. Academic leave includes the Faculty Improvement Program and Assigned Research Appointments.

X.1.1. A Bargaining Unit Member on any kind of academic leave shall receive any salary increase, promotion, or tenure which would have been received had the person remained in residence.

X.1.2. A Bargaining Unit Member on any kind of academic leave shall receive all benefits to which they would have been entitled if not on leave. All benefits that are based on salary, except retirement, shall be calculated on the academic base salary which the Bargaining Unit Member would receive if they were not on leave. Contributions for retirement shall be based on the percentage of academic base salary paid by the University during the leave. A bargaining unit member may raise their retirement contributions to their full level, subject to restrictions of the appropriate retirement plan.

~~X.1.2.~~ X.1.3. Assigned Research Appointments do not affect the eligibility period for subsequent Faculty Improvement Leaves, or vice versa.

X.2. Faculty Improvement Program

X.2.1. The Faculty Improvement Program, established in conformity with Section 3345.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, provides extended periods for professional growth and development. All bargaining unit members who have served at least seven (7) years in any rank in full-time service are eligible for a Faculty Improvement Leave. In any single year, the University customarily will not authorize more Faculty Improvement Leaves than would represent one-seventh of the number of individuals in the bargaining unit. Such leaves shall be in accordance with Section 3345.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, this agreement, and University policy.

X.2.2. The program provides release from teaching duties and all other University assignments, either full compensation during one semester or ~~three-fourth~~two-thirds compensation during two semesters, continuation of University-provided insurance benefits and fee waivers, and eligibility for salary increment and promotion. For participants in the State Teachers Retirement System, contributions will be made as allowed by law. For participants in the Alternative

Retirement Plan (ARP), contributions will be made as permitted by the plan. Participants in the Ohio Deferred Compensation plan may continue to make voluntary contributions as allowed by law.

~~X.2.3. Faculty Improvement Leave Options~~

~~X.2.3.1. The leave may be for one or two semesters, as provided above.~~

~~X.2.3.2. In addition to salary, special arrangements may be made for grants to defray travel and similar coincidental expenses. These arrangements should usually be approved in advance of the leave.~~

~~X.2.4. Filing of Request for Faculty Improvement Leave~~

~~X.2.4.1. Bargaining unit members will initiate the application through their department chair.~~

~~X.2.4.2. A request for a Faculty Improvement Leave should detail the activities proposed for the year or the term and indicate their significance for the mission of the University. They may relate to professional growth, disciplinary research, a research project dealing with the effectiveness of various instructional methods, or teaching development.~~

~~X.2.4.3. A bargaining unit member has the right to withdraw a request for academic leave at any time.~~

~~X.2.5.X.2.3.~~ Professional leave taken as a Faculty Improvement Leave shall not be deemed to be in lieu of Assigned Research (assigned duty in connection with a specific research, scholarly, or creative program).

~~X.2.6.X.2.4.~~ Evaluation and Review of Faculty Improvement Leave applications

~~X.2.6.1.X.2.4.1.~~ Faculty Improvement Leaves are granted on the basis of how they will improve professional duties in one or all of the categories of their teaching, scholarship and creative activity, ~~or and~~ service. All candidates' applications must be considered on their merits, regardless of the number of applicants in any given year.

~~X.2.6.2.X.2.4.2.~~ Each department shall democratically determine how its review will be conducted, including whether there will be separate recommendations from the department faculty and the Chair, or a single recommendation from the department written by the Chair with input from the department faculty. Department-level reviewers shall include both T/TT and TCPL faculty.

~~X.2.6.3. Individuals and committees who evaluate leave requests shall give consideration to:~~

~~X.2.6.3.1. The potential value of the leave to the professional development and academic/job performance of the Faculty Member;~~

~~X.2.6.3.2. The potential value to the University, the Faculty Member's department/program, or students;~~

~~X.2.6.3.3. Evidence which exhibits sound preliminary planning of the project and ability to complete the project;~~

~~X.2.6.3.4. Record of past performance in meeting teaching, research, and service expectations;~~

~~X.2.6.3.5. The final report and any subsequent outcomes of the most recent academic leave, if applicable; and~~

~~X.2.6.3.6. Years of service since the member's last FIL.~~

~~X.2.6.4. The Faculty Member's choice of leave option shall in no way prejudice or adversely affect the evaluation of the application.~~

~~X.2.6.5. The evaluations and recommendations of the department level reviewers and/or Chair shall be submitted to the Dean, who shall forward them, with their recommendation, to the Provost.~~

~~X.2.6.6.~~ X.2.4.3. In the case of a positive recommendation by the department faculty, any negative recommendation or denial by an administrator shall be in writing and shall include the rationale for the negative recommendation or denial. The bargaining unit member shall be copied on any negative recommendation or denial. The bargaining unit member shall have seven (7) days to respond in writing and may request reconsideration by the administrator who issued the negative recommendation or denial, and/or submit their response for consideration at the next level of administrative review. The rationale for any further negative recommendation or denial shall address the issues raised in the bargaining unit member's response.

~~X.2.7.~~ X.2.5. External Salary

~~X.2.7.1.~~ X.2.5.1. Recipients of Faculty Improvement Leaves may receive money for approved study or research or other activities expressly related to the purpose of the leave without prejudice to their receipt of income from Miami.

X.3. Assigned Research Appointments

X.3.1. Full-time tenured and tenure-track bargaining unit members are eligible to apply for Assigned Research Appointments (ARAs). Any TCPL faculty member assigned research or scholarship as part of workload expectations in their PDP is eligible for an ARA under the same terms as tenured or tenure-track faculty. ARAs shall be subject to all terms for such appointments set forth in this agreement and University Policy.

~~X.3.2.—An Assigned Research Appointment provides for disciplinary and pedagogical research by releasing an eligible faculty member from teaching for one semester.~~

~~X.3.3.—The terms of this program Assigned Research Appointments provide for release from teaching, full salary, the continuation of benefits based on full salary, and eligibility for salary increment and promotion.~~

~~X.3.4.X.3.2. All Assigned Research Appointments are presumed to not require the presence of the applicant on campus and to also include a release from service duties, unless the applicant chooses otherwise.~~

~~X.3.5.X.3.3. Eligibility for, and evaluation of, ARA applications~~

~~X.3.5.1.X.3.3.1. All tenure-track faculty are guaranteed to receive an Assigned Research Appointment in the 3rd or 4th year of their probationary period, with no application necessary.~~

~~X.3.5.2.X.3.3.2. All faculty promoted to (or hired at) the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor will become eligible for an Assigned Research Appointment within two (2) years of their promotion (or hire), and thereafter will become eligible again each time five (5) years have passed since their last Assigned Research Appointment, regardless of their current rank.~~

~~X.3.5.3.—All faculty hired at the rank of Full Professor will become eligible for an Assigned Research Appointment within five (5) years of their hire, and thereafter will become eligible again each time five (5) years have passed since their last Assigned Research Appointment.~~

~~X.3.5.4.X.3.3.3. Evaluation of ARA applications shall be conducted by departmental and/or divisional T/TT faculty according to democratic procedures and criteria democratically adopted by the department and/or division.~~

~~X.3.5.5.X.3.3.4. In each year, the University shall grant for the subsequent year a number of Assigned Research Appointments at least 10% of the number of T/TT faculty not otherwise on leave for that year, or the number of applications approved by the faculty as provided above, whichever is less. If an ARA application receives a positive evaluation from the department faculty, the University shall grant the ARA.~~

~~X.3.5.6.—The University may postpone Assigned Research Appointments for tenured faculty upon a declaration of financial exigency (see Article XX). In this case, the faculty member shall receive the appointment within one year of the end of the state of financial exigency.~~

~~X.3.5.7.—The application for an Assigned Research Appointment is initiated through the department chair.~~

~~X.3.5.8. — Assigned Research Appointments do not affect the eligibility period for subsequent Faculty Improvement Leaves, or vice versa.~~

~~X.3.5.9. — Criteria for successful Assigned Research proposals may include but are not restricted to~~

~~X.3.5.10. — the significance, originality, and feasibility of the project;~~

~~X.3.5.11. — the soundness of the methodology proposed;~~

~~X.3.5.12. — evidence that the proposer has taken into account the relevant existing work; and~~

~~X.3.5.13. — the record of the proposer's scholarly or creative accomplishment.~~

~~X.3.5.14. — An applicant may withdraw their application at any time.~~

~~X.3.5.15. —~~

~~X.3.5.16.~~ X.3.3.5.