



Walla Walla Community College

Policy: Sabbatical Leave

From the Contract between the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 20 and the Walla Walla Community College Association for Higher Education – 2011-14

Article 26 Sabbatical Leave

26.1 Guidelines and procedures for sabbatical leave, including application forms, rating procedures, and reporting requirements will be established by the Professional Development Committee.

26.2 Purpose

The purpose of sabbatical leave is to benefit the college and its students by providing academic employees with the opportunity to engage in activities leading to professional growth and revitalization. The college encourages qualified faculty to make use of sabbatical leave. Such leave would allow eligible employees an extended period of time free from normal contractual obligations in order to pursue legitimate professional goals.

This purpose is consistent with the provisions of RCW 28B.10.650 as now exists or hereafter amended and with this college's commitment to faculty professional development. Appropriate uses of sabbatical leave would include formal study, travel relevant to work assignment, work experience in one's teaching field, or any other activity which would contribute substantially to the improvement of teaching abilities.

26.3 Eligibility

Sabbatical leave may be granted for one, two, or three consecutive quarters after completion of six (6) years of full-time contractual service as an academic employee of Walla Walla Community College. Employees awarded three quarters of sabbatical leave will be eligible for additional award after a second six (6) year period of full-time employment. Employees who are awarded leaves of less than three quarters retain their remaining entitlement and will qualify for additional entitlement at the rate of one quarter for each two-year period of full-time employment, not to exceed three quarters of entitlement during a six-year period.

26.4 Approval

All sabbatical leaves require the approval of the Board of Trustees. The number of sabbatical leaves approved by the Board shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the full-time contracted faculty, provided the number of leaves given does not exceed four percent (4%) of the full-time equivalent faculty. The number of leaves granted shall be subject to budget restraints. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the number of recipients, the Board shall name a first and second alternate to replace a leave recipient should an employee not accept a sabbatical leave grant.

26.5 Compensation

Faculty are encouraged to seek outside funding support for their sabbaticals. Compensation from the college during sabbatical leave shall be computed on the basis of the recipient's 176-day contractual salary for the year in which the leave is taken. The following rates apply:

- A. 85% for one-quarter leave.
- B. 75% for two-quarter leave.
- C. 75% for three-quarter leave.

26.6 Outside Funding

Sabbatical leave salary from the college may be negotiated if outside funding plus sabbatical leave pay from the college exceed 115% of the recipient's full-time contractual salary for the period of the leave. In all cases remuneration will be in compliance with RCW 28B.10.650.

26.7 Procedure

An application for sabbatical leave, which will include reasons for requesting the leave, a detailed sabbatical leave plan, two letters of recommendation from colleagues or supervisor, and recommendation from the appropriate Vice President, must be submitted to the Professional Development Committee by January 15 of the previous college year.

The Professional Development Committee will report its recommendations to the President by February 15. The President may recommend candidates for sabbatical leave awards to the Board of Trustees after he has given reasonable considerations to the recommendations of the Professional Development Committee. The President will submit his recommendations at the Board's regular March meeting, at which time the board will take action on those recommendations. The awarding of sabbatical leave grants are not grievable under any grievance procedures included in this contract.

26.8 Award Criteria

Sabbatical leave shall be awarded according to the following criteria:

- A. The value of the proposed activity to the enhancement of the instructional program of WWCC.

- B. The value of the proposed activity to the professional growth and development of the applicant.
- C. The past contribution of the applicant (years of service, range of service) to WWCC.

26.9 Leave Contract

When the Board of Trustees grants a sabbatical leave, the recipient shall sign a contract with the college specifying:

- A. The length of sabbatical leave.
- B. The amount of sabbatical payment.
- C. A commitment to perform according to the approved sabbatical leave plan.
- D. That the recipient will return to employment at the College for at least one (1) full academic year following the leave. The recipient upon return shall be placed in a position at a salary no less than the one received before the leave. It is the intention of the District to place the recipient in the same or similar position upon return.
- E. That the recipient, upon return, will submit a written report to the President summarizing the work completed during the sabbatical leave and describing how the new knowledge will be utilized in teaching assignments. A report of completed professional development activity must also be submitted to the Professional Development Committee.

26.10 Employee Rights

The time spent on sabbatical leave shall be recognized as equivalent to time spent as a full-time academic employee of the college, excepting sabbatical leave entitlement. On request of the employee, the college will provide a planned assignment at least one quarter in advance of the assignment.

Time lines may vary with the mutual consent of the Association and the District.