

12.99.01.R0.01 Faculty Development Leave

Revised July 15, 2025

Next Scheduled Review: July 15, 2030



Procedure Summary

East Texas A&M University (University) promotes the development of its faculty through the implementation of a faculty development leave program. Faculty development leave programs are designed to assist teaching and other academic professionals to develop and pursue worthy academic study, research, writing, field observation, or other suitable purposes that require significant time and the absence of distractions. Faculty development leaves are subject to the laws of the State of Texas and to the regulations of The Texas A&M University System.

This procedure implements the provision of Chapter 51, Subchapter C, of the Texas Education Code and System Regulation *12.99.01 Faculty Development Leave* regarding faculty development leave at the University.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GUIDELINES

- 1.1 Faculty development leave of one semester at full pay or two semesters at half pay may be sought by any otherwise qualified faculty member.
- 1.2 Application for faculty development leave may be made at the beginning of the third consecutive academic year for leave (either fall or spring) in the following year. Requests for subsequent leaves shall observe the same pattern (two full academic years of service with application in the third year for leave in the fourth).
- 1.3 Not more than six percent of the faculty members may be on faculty development leave at one time.
- 1.4 Faculty development leaves may be granted for such purposes as enabling faculty members to engage in study, research, writing, field observation, or other suitable purposes.
- 1.5 Faculty development leave may not be used as a mechanism to complete a terminal degree.
- 1.6 A faculty member on faculty development leave retains the same rights regarding benefits such as retirement, medical/life insurance, and other benefits available to full-time faculty members.

- 1.7 A faculty member on development leave may accept a grant for study, research, or travel from any institution of higher education, from a charitable, religious, educational corporation or foundation, from any business enterprise, or from any federal, state, or local governmental agency. However, he/she may not accept employment from any other person, corporation, or governmental agency, unless the Board of Regents determines that it would be in the public interest to do so and expressly approves the employment.
- 1.8 Any international activities undertaken by a faculty member on faculty development leave are subject to the reporting and approval requirements of System Regulation 31.05.01, *Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment*. If the international activities involve a country of concern, as promulgated by the system Research Security Office (RSO), the activities will be subject to review as defined in University Rule 15.05.04.R1 *High Risk Global Engagements and High Risk International Collaborations*.
- 1.9 Faculty members who accept a faculty development leave will execute a legal agreement to serve two full consecutive academic years after completion of a faculty development leave. The legal agreement shall include a clause requiring the faculty member to reimburse the University in the amount received as salary while on leave, if the faculty member does not fulfill the two years of service. Should faculty members desire to extend their leaves without pay subsequent to completion of a faculty development leave, the faculty member may do so, subject to agreement to such extension by the faculty member's Academic Dean. In this event, the two years of obligated service will commence at the termination of the extended leave period. Death, disability attested to by a medical doctor, or discontinuance of employment by the university is the only exemption from fulfilling this agreement.
- 1.10 A faculty member who applied for but was not granted a faculty development leave may resubmit an application during the appropriate, subsequent time frame in order to be considered for future leaves.
- 1.11 Within ninety days following completion of faculty development leave, each applicant will present to the Department Head, Dean, and Provost a brief written report on accomplishments resulting from the leave, including an update on the specific expected outcomes and deliverables that were set forth in the faculty member's application for leave. Eligibility for the succeeding faculty development leave begins with the delivery of the report of accomplishments to the Department Head. The Department Head will forward a copy of the accomplishment report to the applicable Academic Dean and the Provost for their review. If the faculty member does not accomplish the work, outcome, or deliverables that were set forth in their application for faculty development leave, the faculty member may be required to reimburse the University for the salary they received for the duration of the leave.
- 1.12 While on faculty development leave, faculty members shall not be assigned teaching, RSCA, or service responsibilities to ensure the absence of distractions. Faculty members on faculty development leave are also not expected to attend department, college, university, or similar meetings. Tenured faculty members on faculty development leave may participate in the review of tenure-track faculty members and may serve as a reviewer on a post-tenure-review panel, but are not required to do so.

2 CRITERIA

- 2.1 A faculty member is defined as a person employed by the University whose full-time duties, as specified in his/her appointment letter, are teaching and/or research.
- 2.2 Faculty members are eligible to be considered for a faculty development leave when they have served as members of the faculty for a minimum of two consecutive, full-time academic years.
- 2.3 Applicants must submit all required documentation to the Faculty Development Leave Committee according to established timelines.
- 2.4 The Faculty Leave Development Committee shall give due consideration to each applicant and base its deliberations and decisions upon the following criteria:
 - 2.4.1 Prior record of scholarly or professional achievement;
 - 2.4.2 Description of the potential contribution to research or writing to an academic or professional discipline;
 - 2.4.3 Evidence that the development leave activity can be completed during the leave.

3 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The Faculty Development Leave Committee will be a standing committee of faculty members: a minimum of two faculty members from each college, all of whom currently hold full-time appointments. Membership on the committee shall be for three-year staggered terms, with expiring vacancies to be filled each year. The annual vacancies will be filled as follows:
 - 3.1.1 During the period September 1-10, the Provost will issue a written call for nominations allowing at least one week for nominations to be completed. To maintain the proper distribution of membership from the colleges, the Office of the Provost shall seek nominations from the colleges whose representatives' terms have expired.
 - 3.1.2 Nominations will be tabulated in the Office of the Provost, and the names (plus ties, if any) of those receiving the most nominations and who meet the stated qualifications will be placed on a ballot and submitted to all full-time faculty for a vote.
 - 3.1.3 The candidates receiving the most votes (per college) will be declared elected. (In case of a tie, the winners will be determined by lot.) The candidate receiving the third largest number of votes will be declared first alternate. Each member's term of service begins on October 1 and expires exactly three years later.
- 3.2 In the case of a permanent vacancy due to an unexpired term or a temporary vacancy for some other reason, such vacancy will be filled by the first alternate. If a second vacancy occurs, such a vacancy will be filled by the second alternate. Any additional vacancies will be filled by appointments of the committee itself, with strict attention to distribution.

- 3.3 A member of the Faculty Development Leave Committee is eligible to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Eligibility to serve again is restored after at least one year off the committee.
- 3.4 The committee proceedings will be in accordance with its own organization and procedural rules. A majority of members shall be a quorum. The chairperson, who retains full rights of discussion and voting, is elected yearly by the committee members themselves.
- 3.5 The Provost will certify the number of leaves available to the Faculty Senate at the appropriate time.

4 SUMMARY OF THE TIMELINE

Appropriate deadlines for receiving applications and certifying the list of those recommended by the Provost shall be established to facilitate the process of leaves. Deadlines are subject to change, but generally follow the pattern below.

- 4.1 September 30: Election results for the Faculty Development Leave Committee announced.
- 4.2 The Provost provides the Faculty Development Leave Committee with the amount of funding available for development leaves.
- 4.3 October 31: Committee publishes criteria, procedures, and funding.
- 4.4 Call for proposals.
- 4.5 November 30: Deadline for proposals.
- 4.6 January 15: Committee recommends faculty development leave recipients for the following fiscal year to the Provost.
- 4.7 January 31: Announcement of recommended awards for the following year.
- 4.8 February-March: The Provost, with approval of the President, submits recommendations to the Chancellor for Board of Regents action.
- 4.9 April-May: Announcement of the Board of Regents' action.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Regulation [12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave](#)

System Regulation [31.05.01, Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment](#)

University Rule [15.05.04.R1 High Risk Global Engagements and High Risk International Collaborations](#)

Appendix

[Faculty Development Leave Application](#)

[Faculty Development Leave Agreement](#)

Revision History

Approved September 1, 2002

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Contact Office

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost &
903.886.5514

Provost@etamu.edu