
TO: Provost Davis

FROM: Robert Hollister, Chair, FSBC

SUBJECT: Funding for Sabbaticals for AY 2014-15

DATE: December 10, 2013

CC: Karen Gipson, Chair, ECS/UAS; Merritt Taylor, Chair, R&D; Lisa Surman Haight, Senate Assistant

FSBC is very well aware of the financial challenges that GVSU faces. We also understand the importance of using our limited resources wisely. Therefore, we support the Provost's efforts to ensure that all sabbaticals are carefully and thoroughly reviewed and deemed worthy of being funded.

FSBC is concerned with the implementation of the existing process for reviewing sabbatical proposals in the event of fiscal constraints. The faculty handbook as it is currently written asks that proposals be ranked and that the best proposals be funded. This is reasonable. However it also states that proposals not funded this year due to fiscal reasons be given priority next year and that the sabbatical clock should begin as if the proposal was funded this year. This is not reasonable if the sabbatical proposed was of poor quality and limited benefit to the University as defined in the faculty handbook.

Given the current handbook language it is critical that sabbatical not funded for fiscal reasons be properly identified as such.

We understand that financial constraints may limit the University's ability to fund all quality proposals. However, before we break GVSU's history of funding all worthy sabbatical proposals, we should first rewrite the handbook to remove the inconsistencies addressed above and clearly define the review process. Thus, FSBC asks that the administration do everything in its power to fund all worthy proposals this year and not invoke fiscal reasons.