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**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Faculty Members  
Academic Deans

From: Laura de Abruna, Executive Vice President and Provost

Date: November 1, 2010

Re: Announcement of Sabbatical Awards for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

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As Provost, I have received and reviewed the recommendations of the Faculty Sabbatical Committee and am pleased to announce and congratulate the faculty members whose proposals have been approved for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The sabbatical proposals covered an impressive range of research and development areas. They will not only enrich the work of the individual faculty members, but will also benefit the University community at-large. Abstracts of the approved projects are attached.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Faculty Sabbatical Committee for their care and diligence in making their recommendations. The committee members were: Bruce Marlowe, Ram Gupta, Louis Procaccini, Sara Butler, Brett McKenzie, James Tackach and Veronica Maher.

## **Sabbatical Abstracts 2011-2012**

***Bruce Burdick, Professor of Mathematics***

***Spring 2012***

The sabbatical activity will include three components: 1) work on a book on the history and social significance of almanacs; 2) finishing a paper on the space of filters on a uniform space; and, 3) preparation of materials relating to the “transition” course in undergraduate mathematics with a view toward presentation at mathematics conferences.

***Bonita Cade, Associate Professor of Psychology***

***Spring 2012***

The subjective experience of people of color is often qualitatively different from their white counterparts who are similarly situated. Faculty and administrators of color who work at predominantly white institutions will take an online survey to elicit information concerning their experiences and perceptions. The proposed research is different from past endeavors because the participant population will include administrators of color. It is expected that findings will reflect a perspective that is unique. Findings will be useful in the development of effective policy and programming designed to recruit and retain people of color in predominantly white universities and colleges.

***Patrick Charles, Associate Professor of Architecture***

***Spring 2012***

This research effort is part of a transdisciplinary approach to the analysis, design and production of sustainable built environments and urban forms. The sabbatical will afford the opportunity to study advanced computational tools that simulate physical phenomena in buildings and urban environments. The purpose of this research effort is to evaluate software tools toward their use in the architecture and General Education curricula as means for students to learn about issues of environmental sustainability in the built environment. The outcome of this research effort will unfold in the following four areas: 1) individual course development and curricular development within SAAHP; 2) curricular contributions to the General Education program, with the framing of two potential General Education courses (an introductory-level “Inquiry House” course and a capstone-level “Systems Thinking House” course providing a problem-based collaborative environment spanning architecture, physics, engineering, social sciences, and economics; 3) a workshop open to faculty showcasing the software tools’ capabilities and workflow, as well as discussing their potential use throughout the curriculum; and, 4) research culminating in a paper presenting the design and implementation of one of these new courses.

***Ulker Copur, Professor of Architecture***

***AY 2011-2012***

The recent housing crises around the globe and especially in the US prompted me to expand my horizon in sustainable housing developments and consider historical examples with an eye for lessons for today’s initiatives. Therefore, the purpose of the sabbatical and anticipated findings are: first to study pioneering sustainable cooperative housing projects following the depression of the 1930s in general and research Roosevelt Homesteads (RH) as a particular case. Second, is to develop sustainability criteria for housing to be utilized in retrofitting and

regenerating similar housing developments. My hypothesis is that these housing communities were the eco-villages of their times and incorporated many attributes of sustainable environments. In this context, I will comparatively examine RH and other similar cases to verify the criteria developed in earlier work on social, cultural, ecological and techno-environmental dimensions of sustainability. Third, is to distill lessons from the 1930 experiments for the present day eco-village developments as well as identifying new methodologies applicable to revamping older housing communities. The research will also shed light on new eco-village and housing developments as an alternative to suburban development.

***Alan Cutting, Professor of Computer Information Systems***  
***Deferred approved sabbatical from 2005-2006***

***AY 2011-2012***

The sabbatical would be used to develop a set of Excel based activities to serve as a supplement to a standard text in economics. In contrast to current supplements which simply present Excel as an alternate way of performing calculations, the proposer will investigate ways in which Excel can be used to promote a deeper understanding of the subject at hand. An additional goal is to provide the supplement in a form that does not require a significant adjustment in teaching style or methodology on the part of the instructor.

***Avelina Espinosa, Associate Professor of Biology***

***Spring 2012***

Determine if the parasitic human pathogen that causes amebiasis can aggregate and recognize members of their own kin. Although a similar phenomenon has been reported and characterized for social ameba, this would be the first time that it is reported for a pathogenic parasite. If all conditions of the experimental design are met, I will submit a manuscript for publication and present the work at regional, national and international meetings. Develop educational/outreach modules that will improve the teaching of evolution and increase the acceptance of science. Integrate the curricular modules to the General Education plan and shared with other colleges/universities.

***Thomas Langdon, Professor of Business Law***

***Fall 2011***

The proposed area of research is financial literacy among members of the military, determinants of success on the CFP examination, and an examination of data from the Department of Justice concerning Ponzi Schemes. I am currently discussing research on financial literacy with Dr. Michael Schuster of the US Coast Guard Academy, and a former graduate of the US Air Force Academy. The US Coast Guard Academy is interested in this topic, since they train future officers that not only need to have a grasp on handling their own finances, but are also looked to as a resource by the enlisted personnel that they supervise. Dr. Vickie Hampton of Texas Tech University, Dr. Vance Grange of Utah State University, and I are considering revisiting research on the determinants of success for candidates on the CFP national examination, and are currently in discussions with the CFP Board to obtain data necessary to complete this project (collection data will be Fall of 2010 and Spring of 2011). The final project dealing with Ponzi schemes will be conducted to provide insight into the public policy implications of new and proposed regulations on cases of financial fraud. The research project that I will ultimately complete will depend on the availability and willingness of outside organizations to provide necessary information and access to their members, and it is possible that more than one of these projects would constitute the focus of my sabbatical leave. In

addition to these research projects, I will also be updating my textbooks (*Estate Planning for Financial Planners*, and *Income Tax Planning for Financial Planners*) for the anticipated tax-law changes that will take place next year.

***William McQueen, Professor of Architecture***

***Spring 2012***

Continue study of the theories and Dutch architecture/urbanism – particularly those that were advanced in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that propel current 21<sup>st</sup> century strategic planning and development in the Netherlands. Assess the qualities of the built environments and Dutch family life therein as advanced by the Vinex neighborhoods throughout the Netherlands tradition, and those that engender a form similar to American suburbanization and an ‘imaginary paradise’. Utilize this knowledge to contribute to the growth and development of ARCH 478 – “Dutch Architecture – the Enduring 20<sup>th</sup> Century Legacy” and Architectural Design Studios lectures and visual presentations.

***Kathleen Micken, Professor of Marketing***

***AY 2011-2012***

Within the marketing discipline, authenticity is a much studied but poorly defined construct. This sabbatical research will investigate the relationship between authenticity and two artisan products: cheese and bread. The proposer will interview cheese makers and bread bakers as well as consumers of these products to understand the attributes of authenticity from both a producer and a consumer perspective. A netnography of artisan cheese and bread websites and blogs will complement the interviews. The research should contribute to our understanding of authenticity and how it is interpreted in the interplay between producer and consumer of artisan products.

***Debra Mulligan, Associate Professor of History/American Studies***

***Spring 2012***

The purpose of the sabbatical will be to examine the impact that Rhode Island Governor J. Howard McGrath, 1903-1966, had on local, state, and national politics. The proposer will continue the process of researching and writing for a book-length manuscript on McGrath’s public life, which spanned the better part of three decades, from 1928-1952. As Democratic State Chairman (1930-1934), he presided over the rise of the Democrats in the 1930s. As Governor of the State during World War II, McGrath was responsible for a number of reforms, including the “Cash Sickness Act”, (1942), and the Juvenile Court Bill, which became law two years later. Finally his various national positions, from Democratic National Chairman (1947-1949) to Attorney General (1948-1952) are excellent examples of how a local public figure can impact government on the national level. This research may result in either conference paper(s) and/or a published article.

***Minoo Tehrani, Professor of Management***

***Fall 2011***

Economic integration pacts and the global market have resulted in a major gap in sustainable practices of corporations in developed versus emerging countries. The impact of such a gap can have devastating impacts on emerging markets and contribute to severe depletion of environmental resources and their degradation. The European Union (EU), one of the largest economic integration pacts, has undertaken an enormous task of attaining sustainable development of environmental and human resources across its 27 member countries. The new EU treaty focuses on “Green Europe” for the coming decade. On the other hand, the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) does not encompass any wide-ranging standards and directives to deal with environmental and human resources. As a result, Mexico is dealing with enormous problems of pollution and depletion of physical resources in addition to the abuse of the labor population. This research examines the EU directives for sustainable and responsible practices of multinational corporation (MNCs). The result of this research will be used to delineate a guideline for corporate social responsibility and make proposals for enhancing not only the economic sustainability of emerging countries such as Mexico, but also for the long-term survival and success of multinational corporations.

***Bruce Thompson, Professor of Social and Health Services***

***Spring 2012***

The project will entail the development of a five course certificate in Gerontology that could be offered through the School of Continuing Studies to students from the fields of social and health services who are interested in working with older people.

***Peter Thompson, Associate Professor of Foreign Language***

***AY 2011-2012***

This study will require a year, some travel, and – with luck – work under a grant from the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS). The project is to translate Abdelkebir Khatibi's novel *La Memoire tatouee* (from French) into English. Copyright permission is available and I have developed contact, through two individuals, with Khatibi's widow. She and other scholars have made it clear that Koranic research and a thorough knowledge of his other works will be necessary in order to translate any of the novels – thus, this is a somewhat bigger project than previous translations. There is a publisher for the book, which will fit logically in a series with other North African works. Khatibi – mostly untranslated – is a huge figure in Maghrib, and more broadly francophone, literature.

***Andrew Thurlow, Associate Professor of Architecture***

***AY 2011-2012***

The purpose of the sabbatical will be to complete a study of Frank Lloyd Wright's textile block system and their resultant opportunities for contemporary design. This project will include development and implementation of a plan to enhance the existing Digital Manufacturing facility in the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation. In reaction to Modernist architects who eliminated ornament in favor of an industrial, a-contextual and planar aesthetic; contemporary architects are increasingly employing digital manufacturing methods to encourage new ornament and mass customization. The goal of the sabbatical is to further explore this research through historical study on design and contemporary architectural systems based on its logics to complete a book and further develop my plan for the Digital Manufacturing Laboratory through this experience.

***Mete Turan, Professor of Architecture***

***Spring 2012***

Starting with the travelers' memoirs as early as the fifteenth century, the Byzantine churches and cisterns of Constantinople have been a very rich subject area for scholars, art and architectural historians, who studied them quite extensively, ever since. Very little of this type of scholarship, however, has elaborated on the architectonic-structure, material and construction aspects of Byzantine architecture. There will be a focus on the architectonic means of "squaring circle." The proposed research targets the relationship between geometry, structural behavior,

and the architectonic devices – trompe, squinch, stalactite, Turkish triangle and pendentive— used in the transition from a circle to a square based plan. The plan is to attempt to compare the Byzantine and the Ottoman domes, elaborate on the inevitable influence of the first on the later, and to study the developments that the Ottoman architectural activity made upon the Byzantine legacy.