

Faculty Research Time

Research, publication, and other scholarly activities are central to the objectives and responsibilities of the university and its faculty. Recognizing this, the university is committed to granting research time for faculty to pursue individual intellectual inquiry, to publish, and to engage in creative activities with the potential to improve students' educational experiences.

Research release time is based on an assessment of the benefit of significant intellectual activity to the university. The department and college/school conduct periodic reviews of accomplishments to ensure accountability. Research release time is available with appropriate approval to tenured, tenure-track, or clinical faculty engaged in teaching or clinical activity.

- 1. Purchased and contributed faculty time for funded research** - Wherever possible, the cost of faculty time should be reimbursed to the university from grant or contract funds. When required, faculty time may be contributed, especially when the funded research has provision for financial support of graduate students or equipment. When such cost-sharing of faculty time is agreed to by the university, the contributed time will be accounted for in the faculty member's workload.
- 2. Faculty time for unfunded research (departmental research)** - External funding is not always available to support faculty scholarly activity. To encourage creative scholarship, particularly in certain disciplines, time for departmental research is provided by the academic budget of the university. It is essential that such time be based on an activity that is both scholarly and of benefit to the university, the department, and the faculty member.

Approved by the provost and vice president for academic affairs
September 5, 2003
Revised July 15, 2022

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Commented [A1]: Deans Policy Review complete
AALT review complete
Ready for Faculty Senate review

Deleted: basic ...o the objectives and responsibility ... [1]

Deleted: The awarding of release time for research is not a routine matter. It is...research release time i ... [2]

Commented [A3]: Is this tenured and tenure track? tenure-and -track is not clear and not how we state these categories throughout the rest of the Handbook.

Commented [A4R3]: fixed

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Commented [A5]: The former policy included clinical faculty. We are removing this? That is ok with me but just wanted to make sure this was an intentional deletion since it also specifies engagement in clini ... [5]

Commented [A6R5]: must discuss about adding ... [6]

Commented [A7R5]: added back clinical faculty - ... [7]

Commented [A8R5]: added appropriate approval. ... [8]

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Commented [A10R9]: Agreed. I think possibly de ... [10]

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Commented [A11]: Workload?

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Commented [A13]: [Mention was removed] @Do ... [16]

Commented [A14R13]: I agree with this comment.

Commented [A15]: Scholarly activity (activities) c ... [17]

Commented [A16R15]: yes needs to change

Commented [A17R15]: fixed

Commented [A18]: I understand the sentiment, ... [18]

Commented [A19R18]: I agree with deleting this ... [19]

Commented [A20]: I don't think this is how it works

Commented [A21R20]: we removed that sentence

Commented [A22]: Don't we need to still review a ... [22]

Commented [A23R22]: This is not about research ... [23]

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Page 1: [5] Commented [A5]

Author

The former policy included clinical faculty. We are removing this? That is ok with me but just wanted to make sure this was an intentional deletion since it also specifies engagement in clinical activity, typically more attached to clinical faculty. I also think that the word "service" should be added to the list of activities faculty are engaged in... Research release time is available to tenured and tenure track faculty engaged in service, and teaching or clinical activity. Typically, faculty are released from both teaching/clinical workload responsibilities and service workload responsibilities when they are on research leave.

Page 1: [6] Commented [A6R5]

Author

must discuss about adding service. However, this is not a policy about research leave. That is now called sabbatical leave and is a different policy.

Page 1: [7] Commented [A7R5]

Author

added back clinical faculty - they can have release time for research

Page 1: [8] Commented [A8R5]

Author

added appropriate approval. not adding service

Page 1: [9] Commented [A9]

Author

[Mention was removed] [Mention was removed] As an R1, I think we should emphasize more the priority of charging research time to grants and cost-share as the exception, and at least 1% effort as we have been encountering challenges with no effort on projects, which can present audit risks. Contributed is not standard language used and suggest using cost-shared and unfunded more consistently. Proposed alternative for this section:

Faculty salary support for research should be charged directly to the appropriate grant or contract. For externally sponsored projects, the principal investigator or other investigator/key personnel must devote some level of committed effort to the project — typically at least 1% — on an ongoing basis over the term of a sponsored project award unless the sponsor explicitly prohibits charging or committing effort. This requirement ensures active engagement, compliance with effort reporting regulations, and consistent treatment of sponsored activities. This requirement would not extend to equipment grants, dissertation support, limited-purpose awards, such as travel grants, conference support, etc. Unfunded or cost-shared faculty effort should be approved only in limited circumstances where the project provides significant strategic benefit to the university, such as supporting graduate students, acquiring major equipment, or advancing institutional research priorities. All approved cost-shared effort will be documented and included in the faculty member's official workload.

Page 1: [10] Commented [A10R9]

Author

Agreed. I think possibly deleting the "Wherever possible"

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1.

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Page 1: [16] Commented [A13] Author

[Mention was removed] @Dodge, Gail suggest changing this sentence to: External funding is often the primary means of supporting faculty research, but the university recognizes that valuable scholarly activity may not always be externally sponsored.

Page 1: [17] Commented [A15] Author

Scholarly activity (activities) or “research and creative” activity?

Page 1: [18] Commented [A18] Author

I understand the sentiment, however, this is vague and could be taken/read as a slight. I'd suggest removing this language to reduce wordiness and misinterpretation.

Page 1: [19] Commented [A19R18] Author

I agree with deleting this portion of the sentence.

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6. ▲

Page 1: [22] Commented [A22]

Author

Don't we need to still review a proposal and approve the leave? Not sure why this sentence was removed. And shouldn't there be some statement about the need to report on the work accomplished during the leave, like in the next annual review?



Page 1: [23] Commented [A23R22]

Author

This is not about research leave. Just about counting faculty research time as part of their load.



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