

Sabbatical/FEO Committee Annual Report for 2015-2016

The Sabbatical/FEO Committee met twice during the Fall 2015 semester. The first meeting was to discuss the single application for a sabbatical for the 2016-2017 year. That application was from Dr. Kathleen Kelly, and the committee unanimously recommended approval of Dr. Kelly's application. The committee then met with Dean Spiro Kiouisis to offer our recommendation.

The committee received no applications for Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) awards or for Alternative Sabbatical Awards. The chair recently researched UF information about these two programs and discovered that the FEO awards now are available only to individuals not in the bargaining unit (e.g. administrators). However, most faculty members are eligible to apply for Alternative Sabbatical awards, which are intended to enable faculty to pursue "professional development needs that do not fit comfortably in a traditional sabbatical program." This new program can provide funding for short-term activities and can include non-salary costs (e.g. travel). The maximum award amount for Alternative Sabbaticals is \$50,000. UF information about this program describes it as a pilot that "concludes with awards made for the 2016-2017 academic year."

The Senate and the Sabbatical/FEO Committee plan to survey faculty to determine what barriers interfere with faculty applying for these awards. The results of that survey should be addressed by the Sabbatical/FEO Committee next year. In addition, the committee will need to investigate whether UF has decided to renew the Alternative Sabbatical program; if so, the Committee should take steps to promote applications for the FEO and Alternative Sabbatical programs by appropriate faculty and staff members.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Walsh-Childers, Sabbatical/FEO Committee chair, April 19, 2016.