

## Office Memo

TO: University Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Andrew Fiss (Chair), Shiyue Fang, Smitha Rao, Scott Wagner  
Sabbatical Leave Committee

DATE: May 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Annual Report to the Senate

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Sabbatical Leave Committee reviewed 26 sabbatical leave applications: 25 from tenured faculty and 1 from an instructional-track faculty member. All applications were recommended, though in one case, there was a denial, a revision of the application, and a modified re-application.

According to Senate Procedure 706.1.1, the committee should have “five tenured members of the Academic Faculty appointed by the President.” Yet this year there were four. The Senate should act to fill the fifth seat by following Senate Procedure in forwarding a list of three approved candidates to the Presidents Office.

Additionally, there were three areas that could receive consideration in Senate discussions of sabbaticals as professional development:

- There was only one instructional-track faculty member who met the early deadline for application review. It should be more widely known that ITF sabbatical applications are on a different timeline from those of tenured faculty.
- Of the 25 tenured faculty who applied, 3 were from the College of Business, 3 were from the College of Computing, 5 were from the College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science, 13 were from the College of Sciences & Arts, and 1 came from the College of Engineering. It might be helpful for faculty to know if there is differential support for sabbatical leave applications by college.
- Of the ~20 reports filed about sabbaticals taken in 2025-26, one clearly used an AI assistant without attribution. Faculty should be reminded of University Policy 1.20: Use of Generative AI Tools.

There were a few further requests to make the sabbatical leave application and supporting forms clearer and more consistent, and staff members of the Provosts Office have made revisions as requested. In future, there can be further consultation with the Center for Teaching & Learning, in accordance with Senate Procedure 706.1.1.

Thank you for considering this report.