

FACULTY RESEARCH LEAVE

2020-21

Virginia Tech provides tenured faculty, and faculty on continued appointment, with opportunities that include paid leave for research and/or advanced study necessary to enhance the competencies of those faculty members and increase the quality of the individual's professional stature and future contributions to the university.

Study-Research Leave

Study-research leave may be granted to faculty members for research and/or advanced study necessary to enhance the competencies of those faculty members to carry out their obligations to the university. (At other universities this program is often called "sabbatical.")

Full-time tenured faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher, having accrued a minimum of six years of service, are eligible for study-research leave. Following a period of study-research leave, an additional six years of full-time service are necessary before a faculty member is eligible for another leave. Requests may be submitted prior to completion of six years of service, but faculty members must have tenure and have completed the sixth year before the leave period begins.

Research Assignment

Research assignment is a special category of study-research leave that is awarded to a tenured academic faculty member for one semester of intensive study or research that increases the quality of the individual's professional stature and future contributions to the university. It may be taken in lieu of an ordinary yearlong study-research leave.

Full-time tenured faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher, having accrued a minimum of six years of service, are eligible for research assignment leave. Following such a leave, an additional six years of full-time service is necessary before a faculty member may be considered for another research assignment. Requests may be submitted prior to completion of six years of service, but faculty members must have completed the sixth year before the leave period begins. Faculty members on calendar year appointments may take research assignment leave for up to six months.

The following faculty members are requesting study-research leave (one-half salary for up to one year) for the purpose and period of time specified:

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (1)

Downey, Gary, Alumni Distinguished Professor, Science, Technology, and Society, fall semester 2020; to complete a book manuscript entitled *Introduction to Engineering Cultures*. (Virginia)

The following faculty members are requesting research assignments (full salary for one semester) for the purpose and period of time specified:

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1)

Welbaum, Greg, professor, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, spring semester 2021; to develop a research collaboration with colleagues at The Ohio State University who are also studying environmental impacts of nutrient applications for crop production. (Ohio)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above study-research and research assignment leaves be approved as requested.

June 2, 2020

