1. Name: Helms Sheldon W.
   Last: Helms
   First: Sheldon
   Initial: W.

2. Present Assignment: Associate Professor of Psychology

3. Number of Years of Full-Time Consecutive Service at Ohlone College: 11

4. Time period requested for this proposed leave. (Give inclusive dates): Fall 2011

5. Please check which of the following methods you will use to meet the criteria for a sabbatical. Note that "E" is a combination of two or more of the first four.

   [ ] A. Advanced Academic Study: In your statement in Item 7, include a detailed description of the course of study or research project to be undertaken. A letter of acceptance from the institution to be attended or a letter of acceptance from the individual who will direct the study needs to be forwarded to the committee prior to the commencement of the sabbatical.

   [ ] B. Independent Research or Study: In your statement in Item 7, include a detailed resume of the study or project to be undertaken.

   [ ] C. Travel: In your statement in Item 7, include a comprehensive itinerary of your travel plans.

   [ ] D. Employment: In your statement in Item 7, include a complete description of the duties to be performed during the period of employment. Give the inclusive dates of the period of employment. Attach a letter from the employer which confirms the employment and states the salary to be earned.

   [ ] E. A combination of the above activities: In your statement in Item 7, explain carefully how the activities are related and the special results that can be expected. Describe in detail the combination plan in which you are interested.

   [ ] F. Other.

6. On a separate page, write an abstract of this proposal—not to exceed 200 words. This abstract will be presented to the Board of Trustees if this application is recommended for approval.

7. Narrative Description of the Proposed Program—not to exceed five pages.
   Provide comprehensive information about the type of program you selected in part 5. Include detailed information showing how the proposed program will aid or improve the execution of your assigned professional duties and the specific benefits to be accrued to the division/department, district, and students. Explain why a sabbatical leave, rather than other approaches, is required to accomplish the stated purpose. Disclose all information relative to any compensation you will receive during the leave period, other than expense reimbursement, whether from employment, grant, fellowship or any other source which is an integral or related part of the leave program.
To Be Completed by Division Dean before the Application is Submitted:

[ ] I support this application  [ ] I do not support this application

Comments: Excellent proposal!

[Signature of Division Dean]

I submit this application with the understanding that I shall be bound by the policies and regulations of the Fremont-Newark Community College District and the Laws of California relating to the granting of Sabbatical Leaves of absence.

[Signature of Applicant]

1/31/11

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

[ ] Recommended  [ ] Not Recommended

[ ] Recommended

[VPI CHAIR]

To those applicants whose proposals are not recommended:

[ ] Due to the intense competition this year, your proposal was not approved. Please consider re-applying in a future year.

[ ] If you wish to resubmit this proposal in a future year, it will require revision in order to show that it meets the following criteria as listed on page one:

[ ] A  [ ] B

[ ] Recommended  [ ] Not Recommended

Comments:

[Signature of Superintendent/President]

[ ] Approved  [ ] Not Approved

Action taken by Governing Board
date - 3 -
SABBATICAL LEAVE APPLICATION ABSTRACT

I request a one-semester sabbatical to complete the first three chapters of my dissertation for my doctorate of education from Alliant International University. The completion of this dissertation will relate directly to my work at Ohlone in my Experimental Psychology course, as well as my ability to teach critical thinking in all of my classes.

Sheldon W. Helms, Associate Professor of Psychology
January 31, 2011

SABBATICAL LEAVE APPLICATION NARRATIVE

In March of 2005, I began a program through Alliant International University to earn a doctorate in education. In Spring of 2008, I completed the 60 units of coursework necessary to begin the dissertation phase of this goal (with a 3.97 GPA).

Since that time, I have accomplished many other goals. I have increased the popularity of my classes, utilized many of the teaching and evaluation techniques I learned in my doctoral courses (including Collaborative Learning), and built the Ohlone College Psychology Club into a thriving, popular entity on campus, and I have created the Psychology Club Speaker Series which has proved extremely successful. However, finding the time to work on my dissertation has proved more difficult than I thought, and I request a one-semester sabbatical to get started.

The dissertation consists of numerous stages of work. The first involves a significant amount of archival research in order to write the first three chapters of the dissertation, also known as the Dissertation Proposal. Based on my past experience with research and scientific writing, I predict that this process should take me the better part of three weeks. At this point, I will be required to appear before a committee who will review my proposal and rule on it. Once approved, I will be permitted to begin collecting data.

The topic of my dissertation is an examination of the prevalence of pseudoscience in Nursing programs in community colleges, and whether this has any effect on the ability of graduates from these programs to make scientifically sound decisions while working in the medical field. The psychological effects of superstitious beliefs and pseudoscience have long been studied in other groups, but no literature exists on their effect in Nursing students.
Completion of my dissertation will allow me to publish the first such research, and will provide me an opportunity to study the direct effect of a psychological phenomenon (superstition) on the ability of Nurses to carry out their responsibilities as medical professionals. Related research has shown that superstitious beliefs and pseudoscientific thinking have a negative impact on people’s ability to make sound judgments, and I expect similar findings in my own research.

This project will also provide me with real world experience in carrying out scientific research, something that I teach in my Experimental Psychology course every Fall semester. I will be able to instruct my students more thoroughly and accurately if I have recently carried out a scientific study of my own.

Sheldon W. Helms, Associate Professor of Psychology