Sabbatical Abstract

Tania Munding  Fall 2014

I was the first math instructor at Ohlone College to offer hybrid Math classes. They consist of online instruction and in classroom testing. These classes are very popular among working students, at home mothers, military personnel, students outside of our immediate area, remedial math students and others. I want to continue my innovations in online teaching and develop a complete distance learning program which provides math courses for college credit. I would like to use my sabbatical leave to research this idea and visit colleges and universities which have these types of math education online programs and learn how they are organized and implemented. I would like to use my experience along with my sabbatical research to create a curriculum for complete online math courses, in particular, Algebra courses, at Ohlone. This would increase the enrollment of students at Ohlone, lessening the need for classrooms and parking. This will benefit the students and college. Completely online math courses will embrace a much larger diverse population of our community in math education.
Sabbatical Leaves are based on Article 15.11 of the Agreement Between the Ohlone Community College District and the United Faculty of Ohlone: “The objective of the sabbatical leave is professional improvement of the employee which will benefit the College, the instructional program and, specifically, the students of the College. While the importance of including sabbatical leave is recognized, higher priority at Ohlone College shall be the instructional program and the offering of courses which meet the needs of our students and the community. Budget priorities will place the needs of the College including the instructional needs of the students above sabbatical leave.”...“First priority shall be given to sabbatical leave applications relating to teaching assignments, whether academic work toward a degree, special courses, or other learning experiences.” No more than one leave shall be granted in each six-year period.

All projects must be of sufficient scope to match the time requested. This application will be the prime material used by the committee to rank the applicants. All applicants will be interviewed. Brief interviews will consist of questions by the committee to clarify how the applicant meets the criteria listed.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee bases recommendations on the following criteria:

A. Relative benefits to the students and the College as a whole: how does the proposal fit the mission and goals of the college?

B. Specific benefits to applicant’s department/division, for example:

1. Updating/modifying existing courses/programs through the acquisition of additional knowledge and skills.

2. Generating new programs, courses.

3. Acquisition of new and/or improved instructional or counseling methodology, curriculum development, research skills, or other innovative approaches.

4. Aiding and/or improving applicant’s execution of assigned professional duties.

5. Other.

Application Instructions: Submit the original and one copy of this application, complete with Division Dean’s signature, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs no later than February 18, 2014. Retain a copy for yourself.

Distribution:

(a) The original is retained in the office of the Vice President, Academic Affairs
(b) A copy is returned to the applicant after final action by the Governing Board.
1. Name_ Munding_ Tania_ Last First Initial

2. Present Assignment _ Math Professor_, Math Department

3. Number of Years of Full-Time Consecutive Service at Ohlone College_ 14_

4. Time period requested for this proposed leave. (Give inclusive dates): Fall 2014 semester, 08/25/2014 to 12/12/2014

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.

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

[X] 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.

[X] 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.

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To Be Completed by Division Dean before the application is submitted:

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

Comments:  I support this project as I think it would benefit students.

Signature of Division Dean

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

2/12/14

Date

Signature of Applicant

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

[ ] Recommended  [ ] Not Recommended

_____________________________________, VPAA
_____________________________________, 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

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Sabbatical Leave Application Narrative

Tania Munding, Math

Since I started working at Ohlone almost 14 years ago I always was interested in using technology in teaching Math. I started from using Excel and TI-83 in teaching Statistics then I initiated using Course Compass, which is now MyMathLab, software for teaching Algebra, Statistics and now we are also using this software for Calculus. I was one of the first instructors who set up the self paced Algebra classes. I started to go even farther and pioneered Hybrid Algebra classes. In these classes students are learning online via Internet and take tests in the classroom. The Hybrid class has been very successful and appreciated by the students especially who have difficulty getting to the college several times per week such as working people, mothers, and people who live outside of our college area.

This is a very critical time for Math education. There are a lot of Math related jobs, but at the same time student engagement in Math continues to decline. The University of California is an example of the lack of Math skills necessary in the incoming freshmen to begin a four year college education. It is estimated that at least half of these students need remedial math courses. This is a problem for both the Colleges and the students. Everyone knows that there is a problem with importance Math (and STEM) education today. There is a critical gap between the growing of Math use and individuals competent in Math. Online Math classes at the community colleges can be a solution to fix these problems. The Internet generation appears to be ready for computer based education.

I am applying for a Sabbatical in order to study the possibility of organizing completely online Math classes, in particular, Introductory Algebra classes, with college credit at Ohlone. I would like to research how other Universities and Colleges maintain their completely online Math classes including testing and verification of student identity to avoid the possibility of cheating. I’m planning to visit these universities and colleges and consult with professors who already have experience in providing these types of courses. For example, RACC, Pennsylvania; Coastline Community College, California, University of Illinois; and others.

I intend to prepare a course that will be a significant input to accomplish two out of eight college goals:
#1: Through innovative programs and services, improve student learning and achievement.

#7: Increase access to higher education of under-served and under-represented demographic groups in the District and local communities.

My proposed activities:

1. I want to create a complete course outline including a chat room, classlive, and discussion topics.
2. Learn how to organize complete testing online and what technology is necessary to proctor testing online.
3. Create a mechanism to earn college credit for this type of online Math courses.

Benefits for Ohlone College and Ohlone College Students

By creating this online basic skills Algebra I course we will serve the community and students who need basic Math skills and find it difficult to enroll in a conventional class. Also the results of this project will provide a foundation for additional online Math courses. It will support the Mission of Ohlone College by providing greater access to Math education for our community. I believe that online education will be a large part of the future in education.