Sabbatical Abstract: John Peterson

I have four very specific goals that I would like to attain during my sabbatical leave. First, a series of focused visits to other colleges and universities to observe the structure, organization and teaching methods within their basketball programs and athletic departments. These visits would be broken up into four distinct time periods over the course of the academic year. Second, I would like to continue the work that I have started on a book entitled Ohlone Basketball: A Road Map To Excellence. This book will serve as a guide for how we teach, what we teach and why we teach. It will serve as a reference guide for our athletes and staff. Third, to create the Student Athlete Transfer Profile. Ideally it will serve as a model program that can be used by teams and athletes. In essence, this profile will assist in the recruitment and placement of our student-athletes at the four-year schools using the Ohlone iTunes program and our athletics webpage. Finally, continue to work on the development of a transfer degree in Sport Coaching within our Kinesiology Department. We currently offer only our transferable degree in Athletic Training. A second degree will greatly benefit our student-athletes.
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: Peterson  John C
   Last  First  Initial

2. Present Assignment: Professor, Kinesiology and Athletics; Men’s Basketball Coach; GE Committee Chairman

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 AND SPRING 2015

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

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

Comments: This is John's second request. This application is much stronger

[ ] I fully support this request.

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.

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

Comments: 

[ ] Recommended [ ] Not Recommended
Signature of Superintendent/President

[ ] Approved [ ] Not Approved

Action taken by Governing Board

Date

-3-
February 1, 2014

Sabbatical Leave Application Narrative
John Peterson

In order to meet the criteria for a sabbatical, I have selected a combination of Independent Research/Study and Travel. I am applying for a two-semester sabbatical. The idea for the sabbatical grew from a discussion with our former Vice President of Academic Affairs – Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Jim Wright. I would like to spend my sabbatical accomplishing four separate goals, all of which meet the college’s SLO’s and Athletic Department’s PSLO’s. Three of the goals are interdependent and aligned with our college’s student learning outcomes (Goals 1 – 3).

First a bit of a historical prospective:
When I was hired at Ohlone 13 years ago, I inherited a basketball program that had experienced limited success in relation to winning and more importantly, winning academically. The program’s matriculation, graduation, and student retention rates, as well as presence in the local community, was below average at best. I have worked tirelessly these 13 and a half years, creating and nurturing a program that is now recognized state wide for its success, both on and off the court. Ninety-one percent of our basketball players have received an AA or AS degree. Over 90 student-athletes have gone on to four-year schools (all except four of them transferred with a scholarship). 61 of these 90 graduated with a bachelor’s degree (the others are still in school). Additionally, out of 94 statewide teams, we have been consistently ranked in the state’s top 20. This also demonstrates our athletic effort and this ranking is based on the state’s coaches’ poll, which measures athletic performance. Today we are thriving on all fronts, but I know there is room for improvement, not only for men’s basketball but also for the Athletic Program as a whole. It is the room for improvement that motivates me to submit this application.

**Goal #1**
To use the sabbatical time to do focused visits of multiple athletic departments and basketball programs (2 year, 4 year, professional and international). The purpose is twofold. It is both academic and athletic in nature. From an academic perspective, I am expressly interested in the opinions, strategies and suggestions four year schools can give us and that will help us help student athletes succeed. With the ever changing graduation and transfer requirements, the ever increasing number of underprepared students in the general student population, and the challenged student athletes in particular, I fear our graduation and transfer success could become compromised. Subsequently this could put our currently successful program in jeopardy. Four-year colleges and universities are charged with improving their academic performance rates (APR). APR dictates future scholarship dollars to certain four-year institutions and is based on progress towards degree. If their students do not graduate then they will have fewer dollars to work with in the coming years, making them even more selective of who they take in the first place. If Ohlone is not on top of these changes, our students will suffer. We will be unable to assist student athletes with transferring on with scholarships and our transfer rates will undoubtedly go down. We have an obligation to Ohlone’s future student athletes and their
parents. Parents who have entrusted us to help their child matriculate, to be proactive, and help them move forward in their academic and athletic endeavors. If we don’t, we fail them. I will have questions related to the academic success of student athletes. I will also ascertain what the various schools are doing in regards to the APR and other related matriculation components. These questions will be asked of coaching staff members, compliance officers, and counselors specifically assigned to athletics. Researching these strategies and rule changes would have a direct benefit to the students in my PD/KIN 241, ATHL 227 and ATHL 265 courses. This research will benefit as well the student athletes in our entire department.

From an athletic standpoint, I want to observe master teachers in their classrooms in order to improve and enhance my own abilities. Typically basketball season is broken down into 4 parts: preseason conditioning and skill development, official practice and game play, playoffs, and post season development. This breakdown is important to keep in mind when reviewing the goals. I’d like to take the opportunity to observe all four components, as they specifically relate to my ATHL 227 and ATHL 265 courses.

As indicated above, accomplishing this goal would benefit Ohlone College students, in particular the 200 student athletes we see on a yearly basis. Accomplishing this goal would benefit me from a professional development standpoint because, as highlighted below, I have no time to watch other coaches teach due to my commitments to the college. This would allow me to expand my horizons, observe and incorporate new teaching techniques, enhance the quality of the courses I currently teach and better serve my students. The district benefits because our students (all athletes, not just basketball) are better equipped to graduate and transfer. The department as whole benefits as the information gathered will be disseminated to the coaches and athletes for all 11 teams. This goal aligns directly with the Athletic Departments SLO’s #2, #3 and #4, as listed below.

**SLO #2** – Develop sport specific skill sets in preparation for transfer or entry into professional and/or Olympic sports.

**SLO #3** – Demonstrate critical thinking skills as they apply to game strategies and situations.

**SLO #4** – Develop and demonstrate the connection between preparation for and execution of work, commitment to personal and team goals, acceptance of team diversity and leadership skills.

California Programs at Colleges and Universities to be considered for observation:
  Southern California
   - University of California, Los Angeles
   - University of Southern California
   - Westmont College
   - University of California at Santa Barbara
   - Santa Barbara City College
   - Cal Poly Pomona
Northern California
    University of California
    Stanford University
    Santa Clara University
    San Jose State University
    CSU East Bay
    CSU Sacramento
    Diablo Valley College
    Foothill College
    San Jose City College
    Fresno City College

Professional / International Organizations to be considered for observation:
    Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings, Santa Cruz Warriors, Real Madrid, Estudiantes

Goal #2
I started writing a book (Ohlone Basketball: A Road Map To Excellence). I would very much
like to complete this book. My teaching and coaching load makes it difficult for me to
complete the necessary work on the book. The information gathered from my focused
visits will help round out specific areas in the book. The book is a complete guide to
building a successful basketball program and provides an in depth look at the inner
working of Ohlone College Basketball. The following topics are included:
    Teaching, Culture and Philosophy
    Skill development program (how, what and why we teach what we teach)
    Offensive strategy and philosophy (how it is taught and why)
    Defensive strategy and philosophy (how it is taught and why)
    The power of advanced statistical analysis and metrics
    Staff Organization (roles/responsibilities)
    Importance of Academics
    Practice Planning
    Strength, Conditioning and Recovery Philosophy
    Player Profiles and Rubrics (I Am Sheets, Myers-Briggs Test, Self Evaluation, etc.)
    Game Day and game management
    Master Drill Catalog
    Evaluation Rubrics

As a supplemental piece to the book, I will create a video breakdown of everything we do
(lifting techniques, defensive techniques and calls, offensive techniques and calls, etc.) as
taken from game and/or practice video (14 years worth...our video library is exhaustive).
Students in my ATHL 227 and 265 courses will get this as their text, and will serve as a
supplement to what we do in the lab portion of our class. The benefit to them is that no
other program in the state currently uses a text, let alone one written by their coach. The
district benefits from this as we will become the only community college in the state that
has a text, written by the coach, that is used in conjunction with courses of this nature (in
this case, ATHL 227, 265, 110 and PE 300). This book will become a valuable resource for
our coaches and players. This department benefits because this book can serve as a model for textbook related to other sports. And from professional development standpoint, garnering the teaching methods and viewpoints from other coaches will enhance the finished product.

Goal #3
Create an enhanced version of the Student Athlete Transfer Profile, our program assessment tool currently used by the men’s basketball program. The profile will have a written assessment of the athlete's skill sets and contributions to his team; pertinent information in regards to academics (GPA, units completed, progress towards degree); contact information; financial aid status, etc. Everything a four-year coach would want to know about one of our student athletes will be provided. The profile also includes links to game and practice video, using the Ohlone iTunes as a portal. This process is time and cost effective as the four-year school can immediately download game film on a particular player. This profile, once complete, can be emailed to every four year school in the USA and Canada. The enhanced version will be made available to all sports at Ohlone, each with their own iTunes link. The benefits, for the student, district and department, are obvious...more exposure, immediate feedback, cost efficient as it is all electronic, less man hours to help students matriculate, increased transfer rate, etc. This will enhance the following courses: ATHL 265, 227 and KIN 241.

Goal #4
Continue to work towards completion of our Associate degrees in Sport Coaching and Sport Science. This includes shepherding this program through the state channels for approval and creating 2 new courses (History of Sport and Sport & American Film). The groundwork for the degree has already begun. Again, the benefits to the students are simple: another transfer degree option in a field we do not currently offer. The major benefit to our department is that the creation of new degrees reduces the number of standalone courses and helps us drive enrollment upward. The district benefits as we become one of just a handful of schools in the Bay 12 with similar degree options, allowing us to continue to be a destination for incoming students interested in those fields of study. Some of these students may even become interested in our Kinesiology/Athletic Training Program.

Why is a Sabbatical necessary to accomplish the goals outlined above?
I was hired in July of 2000 to teach in the Physical Education department and coach the men’s basketball team. During that 14 year span, I have taught a minimum of 1 summer session course every summer. I have also run, on average, 8 separate weeks of summer basketball camps, every summer since 2000. I have never taken more than 5 days off from coaching/teaching between the Fall and Spring semesters (which typically encompasses a 5 – 6 week span, a time when other faculty have no assigned duties) in the last 14 years. During the break (Dec. 26 – first day of spring semester) we practice twice a day. From late October to mid April I am away from my family 4 nights a week either because I am coaching my team; fulfilling a speaking engagement for a local youth or high school group; I am watching a future opponent play (sometimes as far away as Fresno or Redding); I am
watching a high school game in order to recruit a future player; I am watching a high school practice in order to recruit a prospective player or going to a prospective player’s house or school to meet with him and his parents in an effort to get them to choose to attend Ohlone. I do all of that for an additional $1696 stipend. For the past 3 years, I have taught class on Monday nights. I also have a wife, a 13 year old and a 10 year old. My point is that unless I take more time away from my family, I have no time in my current schedule to accomplish what I want to accomplish. We all strive to excel at what you do. We could read a book, or listen to a one hour lecture, but it never replaces going and watching someone else perform their craft. Nor does it replace the knowledge one gains from sitting with a great teacher and asking questions. Because I teach when others teach, there is no other approach I can use efficiently to get my objectives met. My time is devoted to my team, my classes, my community, and my family. I come last, because there is no time left for me to try to be better, unless I steal time from someone else. It is unheard of in my profession (coaching) to be able to take a year and watch really good programs operate, let alone finish a textbook or write new curriculum. That is why the sabbatical is necessary. Doing something like this would not only be exciting, but it would be invigorating as well.