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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY FOR COURSE RELEASE FOR RESEARCH

The standard teaching load for tenured or tenure-track faculty in the School of Liberal Arts is 6 courses per year (over two semesters; a 3/3 load). Teaching is central to the role of a faculty member in the School. Scholarly research and creative activity is also central to the role of a tenured and tenure-track faculty member in the School. To foster this, faculty members engaged in scholarly research and creative activity are eligible for a one course reduction in teaching from the six course standard.*

As a School of Liberal Arts, we take a broad perspective in defining research and scholarly activity. Examples of such activity include basic and applied research and scholarly presentations, the writing of plays and poems, public readings and performances, and research and scholarship as related to teaching and learning. Indicators of research activity that merit a course reduction may include but are not limited to:

- Publication of peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals, including electronic journals
- Publication of research reports from supported research
- Proposals for external grants
- Publications of monographs and books by scholarly presses
- Publication of peer-reviewed chapters in edited volumes
- Publication of edited volumes, including scholarly editions
- Publication of other scholarly and creative activity, including poems and fiction,
in appropriate media
- Research presentations at professional meetings
- Public performances associated with scholarly work as related to a Liberal Arts discipline

It is not practicable nor appropriate to impose a strict formula to apply these criteria in judging individual faculty research for purposes of a course release. In some instances, such as the development of a book, progress in the form of draft chapters will serve as an indicator of significant scholarly activity. Alternatively, although presentations at professional meetings and public performances are indicators of scholarly work, successive presentations or performances that do not lead to publication or some other substantive result may be an indicator of a lack of progress. The same may hold for successive external grant applications that are not funded. Chairs are asked to consider these issues and to allow course releases for research in a manner consistent with department and disciplinary standards for what constitutes ongoing research, subject to annual review and approval by the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

*Please note, faculty members may also further reduce their course load through the use of external funds to buy off additional courses.