

North Dakota State University

Policy Manual

SECTION 320

FACULTY OBLIGATIONS AND TIME REQUIREMENTS

SOURCE: NDSU President

1. Basic Obligations

Regular faculty appointments carry those responsibilities and privileges traditionally identified with academic positions. While a minimum of specific restrictions are imposed on the activities of a faculty member, they are under obligation to render to the University the most effective service of which they are capable. Moreover, they are expected to increase their depth and range of competency with increased length of service. All members of the faculty have a responsibility to develop their professional proficiency.

Faculty member obligations fall into these four broad areas: 1) academic instruction, 2) research and other scholarly activities, 3) administrative and related duties, and 4) professional service to communities. Primary responsibilities for most appointees include the functions of teaching and research.

These broad statements of faculty responsibility mean that faculty members are accountable to the University during the term of their appointment (including summer school appointments) for all necessary or appropriate teaching, research, administrative, and service obligations. More specifically, this means that faculty members are obligated to meet all their scheduled classes, to schedule and be available for a reasonable amount of consultation hours in their office, and to attend scheduled meetings that are related to their professional obligations.

2. Office Hours

Faculty members are considered professional personnel responsible for accomplishing the tasks for which they are employed. Faculty members are responsible for making time available for student conferences and are expected to post a listing of office hours.

3. Annual Leave

While nine-month faculty members thus have considerable flexibility in scheduling and fulfilling these professional obligations, they should not regard as automatic vacations all those periods when University classes are in recess. It should be clearly understood that there is no formal **annual leave** policy established for faculty whose regular term of employment is less than 12 months either by the State Board of Higher Education or by the University, other than the obvious fact that all faculty members are entitled to take the holidays defined by the State of North Dakota for state institutions. This should not be interpreted to mean that nine-month faculty members are obligated to work from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on all other days of the academic year, just as it would be inappropriate to assume that faculty members are excused from all academic responsibilities during the breaks provided for students. Instead, the guiding principle should be the more flexible requirement of professional obligation and accountability referred to above.

4. Sick Leave

This same philosophy prevails at NDSU with regard to sick leave for faculty whose regular term of appointment is less than 12 months. Although there is no formal sick leave policy or provision for such faculty, the understanding is that they have the opportunity to reschedule their commitments or make appropriate voluntary arrangements with their colleagues during times when sickness makes it impossible or unwise for them to meet their professional obligations. This does not guarantee any certain amount of paid sick leave hours or days to faculty members whose regular term of appointment is less than 12 months, but the flexibility it provides seems to meet the needs of most faculty members. Where extended illness or short-term disability prevents a faculty member from working, however, the amount of such informal sick leave shall be limited to a maximum of two weeks for each year of academic service to NDSU, unless an exception is approved by the Provost. Eligible faculty members may apply for the University's TIAA-CREF disability insurance, which provides salary benefits after six months of disability. See the Modified Duties section, described below, for possible adjustments to duties if a health condition does not necessitate a reduction in workload. Tenure-track faculty should refer to Section 3.6.2 of Policy 352 (Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation) for policies on extending the probationary period for personal injury or disability.

5. Childbearing Leave

Academic appointees (tenured and tenure-track faculty, professors of practice, and senior lecturers) who give birth are eligible for childbearing leave during the period of medical disability. This is a temporary leave from all duties without reduction in pay during the time the faculty member is temporarily disabled because of pregnancy and childbirth. Childbearing leave begins on the actual delivery date and ends six weeks after (including university breaks), although individual circumstances may require extending this period. Any extension beyond six weeks (before and after delivery) shall require medical certification from the attending physician or midwife and is approved by the Provost. Unpaid leave that extends beyond the period of medical disability is available through FMLA. Eligibility for childbearing leave begins upon hire. In addition to childbearing leave, academic appointees who give birth are automatically granted modified duties, as described below. Tenure-track faculty who become parents should refer to Section 3.6.1 of Policy 352 (Promotion, Tenure, and Evaluation) for policies on extending the probationary period for childbirth or adoption.

6. Modified Duties

- 6.1. Who is eligible: An academic appointee (as defined by Policy 350.1) who 1) becomes a parent or legal guardian of a child (as defined by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA); 2) has a health condition that makes them unable to perform their regular duties but does not necessitate a reduction in workload; 3) must temporarily care for a child, spouse/partner or parent who has a serious health condition (as defined by FMLA); or 4) experiences exceptional circumstances in their personal lives, including, but not limited to, a death in the immediate family (spouse/partner or child) or divorce. Additional modifications for longer-term conditions may be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and NDSU Policy 100.1.
- 6.2. Definition: "Modified duties" means a change to duties and goals without reduction of salary for a limited period of time to provide sufficient flexibility for faculty to respond to personal or family circumstances. A person taking "modified duties" will still be at a 100% workload and 100% salary; however the nature of the responsibilities for this time period will be adjusted. Modified duties will include a revision of workload for up to the equivalent of a regular

semester (revisions might include, for example, release from or alteration of teaching duties, committee assignments, clinical field placement or clinical practice, advising, extension services, or research duties). Modified duties following the addition of a child to the family should include release from onsite duties for the primary caregiver. Modified duties must conclude within 12 months of the life event.

- 6.3. Process: Modified duties, goals, and duration will be negotiated by the individual requesting modified duties with the department chair/head and approved by the dean. Agreements and modifications must be provided in writing. If agreement cannot be reached between the faculty member, the department chair/head, and the dean, the negotiation will advance to the Provost. All modified duties agreements must be forwarded by the dean of the faculty member's college to the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; that office shall make anonymized relevant examples available to faculty members upon request.
- 6.4. Performance evaluation: Faculty members who use the modification of duties and goals must still submit an annual report when it is due in their department. The time period in which duties were modified, as well as the specific modifications in place, must be included in the annual report. The report must also include the agreed upon goals and a statement about how those goals were accomplished but must not disclose confidential medical information. Those reviewing and evaluating the document should take this into account and adjust expectations accordingly. Acceptance of modified duties does not change the candidate's responsibility for meeting the department's PTE standards by the end of the probationary period, whether that period has been extended or not. A period of modified duties is not a necessary condition for an extension of the tenure probationary period. A period of modified duties also does not require that the individual extend the tenure probationary period.

HISTORY:

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