

SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL

November 22, 2000

NAME: Bruce Henrikson

DEPARTMENT: Business and Agri-Industries

Description of current job responsibilities:

I am currently in my 12th year as a member of the agriculture faculty. My teaching assignments have included various agriculture marketing and economics courses. I have also taught overload sections of Introduction to Business, including the development of the first interactive telecourse section and the first on-line version of the course. In addition, I have served as the Director of the Agriculture Program and have a portion of the responsibilities for the Ag Training Institute.

Indicate the length of time you feel is necessary to accomplish your objectives, the semester and date of you intended leave, and any alternate plans.

Length of time proposed: Full-time leave for full semester

Semester: Fall 2001

Dates of Leave: August 2001 through December 2001

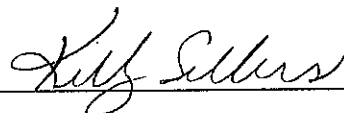
Alternate Plans: Half-time leave, fall and spring semesters

Proposal summary:

I plan to visit other colleges, agriculture businesses, and various other agriculture entities to help update my knowledge and learn about their contribution to the agriculture industry. I have found my schedule of responsibilities at Parkland has kept me so busy that it has been very difficult to adequately keep up to date in our fast changing industry. This leave would allow me to greatly improve my knowledge base for teaching and ultimately my future students will have a better opportunity to learn.

Signature of:

Chair of Business and Agri-Industries Department



Date 11-22-00

1. *In what ways will the proposed sabbatical leave contribute to your professional growth and renewal?*

My professional goal is to continue to help make the Agriculture Program at Parkland College one of the premier community college programs in the United States for both career and transfer students. My primary area of expertise and knowledge is agriculture economics and grain marketing, including futures and options trading. I greatly enjoy helping others understand the practical applications of economic theory and this complicated process. To better accomplish my objective and responsibility, I need to stay updated on some of the practical applications in those areas, including changes in the industry.

2. *Identify the specific goals of the proposed sabbatical leave.*

The agriculture industry is one of many changes because of technology and global economic factors. One of the greatest challenges in agriculture education is to assure that the information and concepts that are learned by students are practical and useful. My primary goal during this sabbatical would be to gain the latest knowledge in areas such as futures market exchanges, grain buyer contracts, market consultant services, current trade issues and policies, and restrictions and rules on specialty grain contracts, including GMO issues.

Those familiar with the Parkland Agriculture Program faculty know that we spend much time outside the classroom with various responsibilities and activities. That workload includes many weekends and summer activities that are often centered around recruitment and general promotion. The school year is also extremely busy with the typical faculty load being 20-21 hours. This sabbatical may be more important as a time for me to "reenergize."

3. *Explain how the activities of the proposed sabbatical leave will help achieve the goals of the sabbatical:*

My planned activities will include the following:

Visit various grain buyers, including grain elevators and some seed firms:

The Andersons, Ludlow Coop, Alliance Grain, Cargill, Grand Prairie Coop, Top Flight Grain, Frito Lay, Pioneer, and Monsanto

Attend training sessions at the Chicago Board of Trade

Visit state and perhaps national government trade offices

Visit commodity organization offices (Corn Growers & Soybean Association)

Attend the Illinois Commodity Conference (second week of November)

Visit various grain marketing consulting firms

Farmer's Commodity Corporation, Joyce Commodities, Lawless Commodities, Strategic Farm Marketing, Advanced Trading (Bloomington), and Bates Commodities (Bloomington)

Visit university professors to exchange information on similar courses

U of I, ISU, SIU, and WIU

Research the availability and adequacy of online courses in my subject areas (grain marketing and introduction to agriculture economics)

4. *Explain how the proposed length and workload of the sabbatical leave is justified by the proposed activities.*

This proposal is based on the assumption that the planned activities will significantly contribute to my professional growth and renewal. Obviously, Parkland College will benefit by having an "improved" instructor, thus justifying the activity.

5. *Describe your plans for sharing the results or impact of the proposed sabbatical activities.*

The primary results of this sabbatical will be the information gained. I look forward to sharing with the administration, board, and other faculty that additional knowledge gained by this time away from the classroom. I believe the impact of my experience will be significant for my future students, other faculty, and ultimately the program. My only concern is that I know I will miss the interaction of students in the traditional classroom during that semester.

6. *In what ways will the proposed sabbatical leave recapture your original spirit and impetus for selecting teaching as a profession?*

I made my first career choice to become a teacher when I was 13 years old. I was fortunate enough to reach that goal by teaching high school for five years and at Parkland for about 20 of the last 25 years. I still love to teach, but I find my energy diminished at times. A number of college instructors, including one from another community college, have encouraged me for years to take the time to get away from the classroom and do the types of activities this potential sabbatical would provide. Those people have been very convincing of the advantages to getting "renewed" through this process. I trust them and am anxious to have the experience.

7. *What is the length of your full-time service at Parkland College?*

I have served Parkland two different times. First, from August, 1975 until December 1984. My current employment began in August 1989. Therefore I am in my 12th year of service after serving 9 1/2 years the first time.

8. *When, if ever, was the date of your last sabbatical leave at Parkland College?*

I have never asked for a sabbatical leave.

9. *Describe any expenses that you think the college should consider supporting which are in addition to the salaried amount you will be receiving if on sabbatical leave.*

Considerable costs will be involved in travel, as well as actual fees for attending seminars and conferences. I request that Parkland College support my travel costs to and fees incurred at these events, up to a maximum of \$1500. I estimate this will be about half of the actual costs incurred. I will request this funding and reconcile using the standard travel request form unless otherwise instructed.

10. *What other items for additional consideration would you like included in this proposal?*

I have not applied for a sabbatical previously, partly because of my dedication to the Agriculture program and the other faculty. I am very concerned about the load this potential leave would have on those people. However, the timing seems appropriate primarily because Gayla Sargent will be back to a full-time status and is very capable of taking over some of the many administrative duties for which I have been responsible. I am also concerned about our ability to obtain competent part-time instructors to teach my classes. However, I have been assured by the other faculty that they will cover those needs. Also, because of my concerns about their workload, I fully intend to help with some of the "special" activities that occur annually, such as the FFA Parliamentary Procedures and Crops Contests we host each November.

Sabbatical Leave Report

May 28, 2003

Bruce Henrikson, Business and Agri-Industries Department
Fall 2001 Sabbatical

This opportunity was a very valuable experience that resulted in making me a better teacher and a better person. I want to thank PCA's Sabbatical Leave Committee, chaired by Steve Brown at that time, the administration, and the Board of Trustees for allowing me to participate.

I had never applied for a sabbatical in the past, including my first employment as an instructor at Parkland between 1975 and 1985, because I had not been convinced of the value of the sabbatical concept. Gayla Sargent and an agriculture instructor friend at another community college strongly encouraged me to do so based on their positive experiences. I was still reluctant because I was concerned about how the agriculture program and its students would be served if I was not around all the time (I hope this is not a "control freak" issue). Eventually I decided to apply because others helped me clarify that those issues were a part of my shortcoming as a professional instructor. I was so busy with activities and my day-to-day responsibilities that I was having difficulty in keeping up-to-date in the fast changing agriculture industry.

Therefore my goal was centered on my need to "gain the latest knowledge in areas such as futures market exchanges, grain buyer contracts, market consultant services, current trade issues and policies, and restrictions and rules on specialty grain contracts, including GMO issues." Although the types of activities I encountered and used changed compared to my plan, my goals were met beyond my expectations.

Some of my activities included the following:

- 9/10-11 Conference: "Knowing Where It's Going: Bringing Food to Market in the Age of Genetically Modified Crops," Minneapolis, MN. Sponsored by the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology
- 9/28 Attended a seminar for visiting Argentine farmers at the Eric Rund farm, Pesotum. Presented on the U.S. Farm Program
- 10/4-5 Attended the annual conference of the Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors at Lincoln Land Community College
- 10/29 Attended workshop on farm insurance at the Champaign office of Strategic Farm Marketing, Inc.
- 11/20 Conference: Illinois Commodity Conference in Bloomington, IL. Theme was "A Biotechnology Odyssey."
- 12/2-4 Conference: National Grain and Feed Association's Elevator Council in Indianapolis, IN.
- 12/4 Visited the home office of the National FFA and National PAS and met with the PAS Executive Director