

There are basically two ways to look at the idea of sabbatical leaves, said Dr. T.K. Olsen, director of the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission. "On one hand, for the rest of the world that is not used to sabbatical leave, it's a peculiar, arrogant element of academe and it looks like a gross, unnecessary expense.

"But within academe where it's done well, it really accomplishes the purposes for which it was intended."

The Oregon Administrative Rules on sabbatical leave say it is for "purposes of research, writing, advanced study, travel...or related scholarly or professional activities." Administrators and faculty members say it's also a chance to rejuvenate.

The State Board of Higher Education recently changed the eligibility requirements for sabbatical leaves to include part-time as well as full-time faculty members. Now, any faculty member who is employed at least half-time for six continuous years at a state college or university is eligible for one term of leave with 85 percent pay, two terms with 75 percent or three terms with 60 percent.

The administrative rules say sabbatical leave is a privilege and not a right. "It is granted only when...used in a manner which will provide greater service to the institution and to the state."

When applying for sabbatical, faculty members must propose a project that relates to their field, Hynes said. The sabbaticals then have to be approved by a long chain of administrators.

But Hynes said he knows of only one request for sabbatical

leave ever denied, and that was denied on a technicality.

Some faculty members do earn a supplemental income through part-time work or lecturing at another college, but most do not, Hynes said. "It's not permissible to take a full-time job while on sabbatical leave from the University," he said. "Sabbatical leave is not intended to allow you to increase your income, but if the two coincide, that's fine. There's no rule against it."

The administrative rules say faculty members on sabbatical may supplement their salaries to a "reasonable degree" if it does not interfere with the objectives of the leave.

But the term "reasonable degree" is open to interpretation, and that can lead to confusion, such as the controversy surrounding Steve

Goldschmidt's sabbatical.

"We do our best to make sure the sabbatical is used for the purposes it is meant for," Hynes said. "It's a pretty carefully monitored process."

There have been two cases where faculty members were asked to pay back their sabbatical pay, Hynes said. In both cases, the faculty members did not work on the project they proposed, but spent their time on irrelevant, and very profitable, activities, he said.

The majority of faculty members use their sabbatical leaves to research and write articles and books, which are often published and may be profitable.

Michael Hibbard, an associate professor in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management, recently returned from a two-term sabbatical

leave, during which he visited small timber communities in Oregon and British Columbia to study the effects of mill closures in those communities.

Articles he wrote about that research are being published, he said. Two research grants helped him pay the travel and research expenses, but he did not earn other supplemental income.

"Sabbaticals are real important. The U of O wants to be a research university, and that means it has to provide the opportunity," Hibbard said. Sabbatical leave is one of the few things the University has to offer.

But some people do abuse the sabbatical leave system, he said. Different people have different ideas about the legitimate use of sabbaticals. "Other people think of a sabbatical as a kind of

paid vacation, a break. They think that is a perfectly legitimate use of sabbatical," he said.

"People's needs differ, so there are a lot of different types of uses of sabbatical," said Sally Fullerton, the head of the human services department. Fullerton recently returned from a one-term leave, which she spent "thinking gathering and organizing material" for a book she plans to write.

Bob Barton, an associate professor in theater arts, took a two-term sabbatical this year. He spent part of his sabbatical working on an introductory acting textbook, which will be published.

A lot of his time during the sabbatical was spent with his son who was born last spring, Barton said. "That's an experience a lot of fathers don't get," he said.

Et al.

MISCELLANEOUS

Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies will be holding officer elections tonight in Room 101 EMU at 7 p.m. Interested new initiates are invited to attend.

North By South: A Bridge of Words, an evening of original poetry and translations in Spanish and English will be presented by the Council for Human Rights in Latin America and the University Department of Romance Languages.

Featured will be Chilean poets, Juan Epple and Oscar Sarmiento; and North American poets, Steven F. White and Bradford Evans. The reading will be held on Monday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Latin American Cultural Center, 1236 Kincaid St.

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