

May 5, 2026

To: Faculty Senate

From: Faculty Development & Research Committee Chair, Patti Hastings

Re: Summary of 2025-2026 Committee Work

Committee Members: Dale Beach, Vince Magnini, Kathryn Miller, Ronda Walker, Derrick Taylor, Eric Wears, Patti Hastings (Chair)

The Committee on Faculty Development & Research met four times during the 2025-2026 academic year. An orientation meeting was held via Zoom on September 30th where the Committee's responsibilities and timeline were discussed. At that meeting, the Committee voted to conduct all future meetings via Zoom.

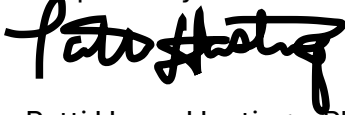
On October 14th and 21st, the Committee convened to discuss twenty-one Sabbatical Proposals. Following deliberations, the Chair sent the recommendations to Provost Smith on November 15, 2025.

The Committee next met on February 17th to discuss ten Faculty Development and Research Grant Proposals. A letter of the Committee's final recommendations was sent to Provost Smith by the Chair on March 7, 2026.

Additionally, the Chair met with Provost Smith on February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss concerns shared by Provost Smith, the Committee, and Deans, about the need to rethink the Committee's charge and processes and update related language in the FPPM. That discussion yielded positive results. It was agreed that a simple tweak wouldn't address concerns expressed; a deeper reimagining of the process was warranted. Provost Smith stated the Committee would operate as usual for the 2026-2027 academic year while she tasked a working group over the summer to work on the needed updates.

All Committee files are housed in the Committee's Canvas shell which can be found at [Faculty Development & Research Committee](#).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Horne Hastings, Ph.D.

Chair, Faculty Development and Research Committee 2025-2026