

Professional Leave Report Cover Sheet

Name: Samuel Lankford

Department: Recreation Administration

College: Health and Human Services

Leave taken: ☒ Sabbatical ☐ Difference in Pay ☐ Professional Leave without Pay

Time Period: ☐ Fall
 ☒ Spring
 ☐ Academic Year
 ☐ Other

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SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT SPRING 2021

Dr. Sam Lankford

Professor and Chair

Department of Recreation Administration

The overall objective of the sabbatical leave was to enhance my teaching and research in the disciplines of parks, recreation and tourism. Specifically, the sabbatical leave provided me with the opportunity to complete an edited textbook (in press), make significant progress on a contract with California State Parks, and analyze data for a paper. Additionally, I made progress on another textbook revision for the 5th edition.

Planned travel during this leave had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, closure of public facilities (PAV), and university mandates cutting/restricting grant funded travel. As such originally planned travel and research at various CSU campuses were eliminated.

The sabbatical leave also benefited our students because my research and industry emersion with State Parks which advanced my knowledge in the disciplines I teach. Consequently, this knowledge and information should enhance student learning as it is incorporated into my undergraduate courses in Recreation Administration.

Objective – Initiate a Project Through the SPARCI Program. The Sustainable Park and Recreation Community Initiative (SPARCI) was adopted as a community engagement program for the Department of Recreation Administration in 2015 (<http://fresnostate.edu/chhs/recreation/community-engagement/sparci.html>). This program allows our department to work with other governmental agencies in solving research problems. The Department Recreation Administration was awarded a contract (\$565,000) with California State Parks OHV/OSV Division to conduct a multi-year study on the economic and demographics of users to all outdoor off road and snowmobile areas in the state. The contract was fully awarded 1 month prior (November 2020) to the sabbatical. I was able to complete phase 1 of the study by drafting the methods, developing 3 questionnaires, and presenting this to the state parks staff. Online surveys have been drafted and are being reviewed by state parks staff. Sampling plans have been developed.

This research contract will improve knowledge about the current economic contributions of these outdoor recreation pursuits. Additionally, the research will result in the data for students and faculty to use for presentations and publications. Finally, students will receive payment for collecting data, organizing data and conducting research. Six Fresno State faculty are involved in the project.

Objective – Finalize the textbook “Interprofessional Collaboration in Recreation, Parks and Human Services” and edited book of chapters and cases. The manuscript was sent to the publisher late fall 2021 and is now in press with Sagamore-Venture Publishing. I expect the book will be released January 2022. I, along with my co-editor authored two chapters, in addition to editing and coordinating the publication with the publisher. Authors from across the U.S. and Canada have contributed another 25 chapters.

The book will be of use to upper division and graduate student seminars. The cases present examples of the breadth of human services and the impacts in communities.

The second book was an edit of my four chapters of the 5th edition of the “Leisure and Life Satisfaction” textbook. I am the second author on this textbook. Sagamore-Venture Publishers is being used for this edition. The chapters have been reviewed, edited and updated with references. Draft was sent to the other coauthors.

Objective - To prepare two journal articles for presentation/publication. Paper #1 addresses student learning outcomes of involvement with the SPARCI program at Fresno State. Data were collected during the Fresno PARCS project and presented at a refereed symposium. The data and resulting presentation materials are in draft form for re-submission for another journal. One publication required adjustments to the data set that we felt were not warranted, therefore we are preparing the paper for another journal.

Paper #2 utilizes a data set and reports that were made possible by previous CHHS Dean research funds and provost scholarship funds. The study examined impacts of tourism in the Columbia River Gorge, and was presented to the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and Hood River County and City. The study was an extension of my dissertation completed in 1991. The data provide a longitudinal examination of the community issues related to the visitor and tourism industry. The Journal of Travel Research (JTR) is the expected outlet for this paper. A draft of the statistical findings and comparisons to the 1991 data set have been made. A submission to the Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA) for presentation at a refereed conference in June 2022 will be made. TTRA publishes JTR and the paper, with modifications based on the presentation comments, will be submitted after.