

Professional Leave Report Cover Sheet

Name: Tatyana Ryabova

Department: Accountancy

College: Craig School of Business

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

Time Period: ☒ Fall 2023
☐ Spring
☐ Academic Year
☐ Other

Your report will be sent to your Dean for your PAF and to the Library Archives.

Final Sabbatical Report
By Dr. Tatyana Ryabova, CPA
Department of Accountancy
Craig School of Business

Section 1. Reporting on the Success of the Leave

I am pleased to share that my sabbatical leave in the fall semester of 2023 was highly productive. During this time, I collaborated with my co-authors to develop a forensic accounting case study titled "Buybacks, Exit Strategies, and Ethical Implications: A BBYQ Case Study." This case study was presented at two international conferences: the 32nd Asian-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues in Gold Coast, Australia (Fall 2023) and the business ethics section of the PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) Biannual Conference in Victoria, Canada (Spring 2024). We are currently preparing to submit this case to the Special Issue of *Advances in Management Accounting*, which focuses on the relationship between Management and Management Accounting through the Management Accounting Ecosystem. *Advances in Management Accounting* is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal ranked as an "A" level journal by the Australian Business Deans Council journal quality list and classified as Q1 on Scopus.

The primary goal of my sabbatical, as approved by the School Committee on Faculty and the Dean, was to prepare for teaching a new course: Forensic Accounting (ACCT169), which I am scheduled to teach in the Spring of 2025. To prepare for this course, I obtained certification in Foundations of Financial Forensics (45 hours) and am still pursuing additional credentials. I reviewed and selected textbooks and other learning materials, and I contacted representatives from major publishing houses to obtain copies of the latest editions of commonly used forensic accounting textbooks, as well as access to related resources. I also prepared my lecture notes, assignments, and exams for the course. Additionally, I reached out to forensic accountants in the field to gain insights on relevant and current issues that could inspire class discussions and potential research opportunities.

Section 2. Benefits to you as a faculty member

I have successfully achieved my sabbatical goal of writing a forensic case study for conference presentations, with the aim of publishing it in a peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, I have obtained certification in Foundations of Financial Forensics and am well-prepared to teach the new forensic course in Spring of 2025.

Section 3. Benefits to the University

I shared my case study with students in my upper-division accounting classes, which enhanced their understanding of the role of buybacks in earnings management. The students found the information both interesting and beneficial, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. This experience has been very rewarding for me, and I look forward to sharing my future research with students. In addition to benefiting students in the classroom, faculty research is crucial for CSB's efforts to maintain its AACSB accreditation, and the university will also gain from increased name recognition.

Section 4. Original Proposal
Please see attached.

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that
Tatyana Ryabova

has completed the

WEB: Foundations of Financial Forensics Workshop

11/6/2023

45 CPE Credits for five days of training; Fields of Study: Accounting–9, Auditing–6, Behavioral Ethics–2, Business Law–6, Communications and Marketing–2, Information Technology–4, Economics–3, Finance–5, Management Services–3, Regulatory Ethics–2, and Taxes–3; Instructional Delivery Method: Group Internet-Based; In accordance with the standards of the National Registry of CPE Sponsors, CPE credits have been granted based on a 50-minute hour.



Brian K. Jones
Chief Operations Officer and
Executive Vice President



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Applicant: Dr. Tatyana Ryabova, CPA

Department of Accountancy

Craig School of Business

Sabbatical Request for: Fall Semester 2023

Section 1. The Proposal

This is my first sabbatical application since I joined Fresno State as a tenure track faculty in August 2016. I will use this sabbatical leave, if approved, (1) to prepare a research article to submit for consideration for journal publication and (2) to obtain my MAFF Credentials (Master Analyst of Financial Forensics) to prepare to teach the Forensic Accounting course in the future.

Research Proposal

1. Tentative Title: Buybacks and exit strategy of insiders

2. Proposal Abstract: This paper investigates the quality of buybacks and the hypothesis of whether corporate insiders might be taking advantage of the regulatory loophole left in the regulation of buybacks. After the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, S&P 500 corporate stock buybacks reached a record of \$806 billion in 2018. Buybacks, also known as repurchased stock or treasury stock, have attracted significant interest and generated the debate about the use of corporate cash and its impact on workers, companies, and the economy. First, I will analyze the positive and negative impacts of buybacks on companies' firm value and on long-term productive capabilities. Then, I will investigate whether that executives are motivated to use buybacks opportunistically to game their incentive compensation arrangements and their exit strategy.

3. Expected Major Goals and Outcomes: One of the main goals of this study is to investigate whether to limit stock buybacks and reduce the ability of corporate insiders to use stock buybacks for personal gain. I will use the tax reform as an exogenous shock to run a difference-in-difference analysis. Then, I will have the US firms as the treatment group and compare their behavior to the behavior of a matched Canadian control sample. The hypothesis will be that the U.S. firms increased their buybacks relative to Canadian firms and that this led to increased executive compensation, again relative to Canadian firms. If my findings support the underline hypothesis and absent any concurrent change in firm fundamentals, I may conclude that a side-effect of this tax reform was increase in executive compensation.

4. Timeline

August – October 2023: Prepare the first draft of the paper for conference presentations.

November – December 2023: Prepare for the publication.

Teaching Proposal

My main teaching interest is in financial accounting. I have taught the following courses since I joined Fresno State: (1) ACCT4A Financial Accounting Principles and Systems, (2) ACCT 120A Intermediate Accounting I, (3) ACCT 120B Intermediate Accounting II, (4) ACCT 170A CPA Exam Study I: Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) & Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), (5) ACCT 167 Advanced Accounting Problems (partnership accounting portion of the course). I plan to add a new course (ACCT 169 Forensic Accounting) to my teaching list. I will do the following using my sabbatical time to prepare this new course:

August –October 2023:

I will obtain my Master Analyst of Financial Forensics credentials. First, I will take 50 or more hours of training in areas covering the Financial Forensics Body of Knowledge and attend the NACVA (National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts) training program entitled: Foundations of Financial Forensics Training Center (five days live or online). I will use my professional development funds for the training program.

November –December 2023:

Second step in getting my MAFF credentials, I will take a proctored exam which is five hours in length. Here is the link for requirements:

<https://www.nacva.com/maffqualifications>

To prepare to teach ACCT162, I will review and select textbook and other learning materials. I will contact the book representatives of the major publishing houses to get copies of the current editions of the most used forensics accounting textbooks and gain access to other related learning resources. Prepare my lecture notes, assignments, and exams for the course. In addition, I will reach out to the forensic accountants in the field to learn about relevant and current issues/topics which could lead to the potential class discussions and future research.

Section 2. Benefits to you as a faculty member

-The proposed research is expected to produce one working paper to submit for consideration for conference presentations and publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

-I will be able to teach a new course, and during the preparation for the new course, I will obtain MAFF credentials, explore new teaching methods, and improve my teaching skills.

Section 3. Benefits to the University

-Faculty research is an important part of CSB's efforts to maintain its AACSB accreditation. University will also benefit from name recognition.

-The quality of the research can translate to the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom. I will share the knowledge gained through the new research and the MAFF credentials with my students.

-Having faculty who are ready to teach more subjects will make the scheduling of classes more easily for the department.