

Long Beach City College

Sabbatical Leave Proposal

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1. Briefly state the purpose of your sabbatical leave.

I am applying for sabbatical leave in order to write a laboratory manual for Chemistry 2. This text would be published by the LBCC bookstore and would replace the current lab manual published by an outside vendor. The difference in price between a commercially published lab manual (\$40 to \$70) and a college-published manual (\$3 to \$5) would be an enormous benefit to LBCC Chem 2 students.

2. Give all pertinent details of your proposed plan. This should include all activities, projects, research, itinerary, study, employment, expected outcomes, relationships with current coursework, etc. connected with your proposed leave.

In order to write a new Chem 2 laboratory manual, I propose the following sequence of activities:

- a. Survey Chem 2 students as to their satisfaction with current Chem 2 experiments.
- b. Similarly survey Chem 2 faculty.
- c. Examine the introductory chemistry lab curriculum of local community colleges and CSULB.
- d. Review currently published lab texts for introductory chemistry.
- e. Select 13 to 14 general types of experiments in line with the Chem 2 curriculum, the lab curriculum of local institutions, available equipment in the LBCC labs, departmental budgets and the preferences of LBCC faculty and students
- f. Write and test experiments for the proposed manual.
- g. Provide LBCC chemistry faculty with a draft Chem 2 lab manual and solicit their comments and corrections.
- h. Adopt the new lab manual as soon as possible after corrections are made.

3. Provide a timeline indicating how the activities within your plan will be completed within the time frame of the proposed leave.

Using the framework of the above sequence of activities,

- a. December 2007 and May 2008, I will survey my Chem 2 students on the lab portion of the course.
- b. Spring semester 2008, I will survey the faculty teaching Chem 2.

- c. September 2008, I propose to collect the introductory chemistry lab curricula from CSULB and Cerritos, Golden West, Coastline, El Camino, Orange Coast, Cypress, and Fullerton community colleges.
- d. September and October 2008, examine the experiments in lab manuals used by the above institutions, plus at least five or six other introductory chemistry lab manuals (selected to include as broad a range of perspective as possible).
- e. November 2008, I will decide on 13 or so general topics or types of experiments to include in the new lab manual.
- f. November 2008 through March 2009, I will write the experiments. Testing and my own revisions will likely continue through April 2009.
- g. May 2009, I will provide concerned parties (LBCC full time chemistry faculty, part time faculty who teach Chem 2 and chemistry stockroom personnel) with a draft of the lab manual, and will solicit their comments and corrections over June and July 2009.
- h. July 2009, I will make any corrections to the text and submit it to the LBCC bookstore for duplication.

4. Describe how the proposed leave will contribute to your professional development, including how it relates to your current assignment.

Review of introductory chemistry lab manuals and the experiments performed in other college's introductory chemistry courses bears directly on my current assignment. I have taught two Chem 2 sections each semester for the past six or seven years, and have had time only to make minor revisions to Chem 2 lab curriculum each year. Much useful information on teaching strategy and the capabilities and skill needs of basic chemistry students will be gleaned whilst meeting with faculty who teach introductory chemistry at other colleges. (See point c. in the proposed action plan above.) Conferring with faculty at other colleges on this project should also improve ties between LBCC and other local institutions.

I will be writing experiments consisting of a concise introduction, procedure and directions for calculations. This exercise should improve my technical writing skills, which will carry over to classroom work. In sum, surveying students' preferences, interacting with other colleges' faculty during the project and exploring the range of possible experiments will improve not only my understanding of Chem 2 students' needs but enhance my teaching skills.

5. Describe how the proposed leave will benefit the college and students.

Students will immediately benefit financially from a Chem 2 lab manual published at LBCC. The current Chem 2 lab manual, supplied by Brooks-Cole Publishers, sells for \$34.05 in the college's bookstore. The product of my proposed sabbatical leave, an LBCC-published manual, would sell for \$3 to \$5. (Lab manuals for Chem 1A and the summer session of Chem

1B which have been written by the faculty and duplicated at LBCC are priced in the \$2 to \$5 range.) With textbooks totaling two to four times the tuition and fees per semester at LBCC, any relief on texts would be truly appreciated by the students.

Lower textbook prices will no doubt please students, and any increase in student satisfaction benefits LBCC's reputation and eventual enrollments. An LBCC-published manual would slightly reduce operating expense for the bookstore. Any profits from the manual would roll into scholarships for physical science students or to meet department expenses.

6. List and describe the specific, tangible products you will bring to the college within three (3) months after you return to your assignment.

A laboratory manual of at least thirteen (13) experiments will be the end product of my sabbatical work. An introduction, directions with illustrations when needed and a data/calculations page will comprise each experiment.

7. Describe how you will share the outcomes of your proposed leave with other interested parties upon return.

I will mail draft copies of the manual to the full time LBCC chemistry faculty, the chemistry stockroom personnel and to the part time faculty who teach Chem 2, with a request for corrections and comments. I will revise the manual as needed before the LBCC Copy Center's deadline for Fall 2009 publications.

8. If applicable, please disclose any additional sources of employment earnings during the proposed leave.

None.

Signature of Applicant

Date Originally Submitted

Use this form or a facsimile as the cover for your proposal.