

Subject: course buy-out question
From: Elizabeth Hammer <eyhammer@XULA.EDU>
Reply-To: STP Extended Executive Committee <TOPEC@LIST.KENNESAW.EDU>
Date: Mon, 17 Nov 2008 12:36:32 -0600

Hi all,
I am on a working group led by Elizabeth Swenson regarding policies for course buy-outs. Could you please let me know (eyhammer@xula.edu) if your position has a course buy-out attached regardless of whether you use it or not? And let me know if the money comes from some other sources beside our operating budget (e.g., the pocket of money held at Kennesaw or Green Bay).

Thanks so much!
Elizabeth

SOCIETY FOR THE TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY
Extended Executive Committee Discussion List

LISTOWNERS:
Bill Hill <bhill@kennesaw.edu>
Dave Johnson <djohnson@jbu.edu>

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Subject: Course Buyouts - Working Group Report attached
From: Janet Carlson <jfcarlson57@AOL.COM>
Reply-To: STP Extended Executive Committee <TOPEC@LIST.KENNESAW.EDU>
Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2009 14:32:18 -0500

Attached is the report from the Working Group on Release Time (Course Buyouts), which I received earlier this week. On behalf of the Society, let me extend our appreciation for the careful and deliberative work of this group, and especially its chair, Elizabeth Swenson.

As you may recall, this working group was appointed last year by then-President Maureen McCarthy. The charge to the working group is summarized near the beginning of the report.

The floor is open for discussion. Considering the charge to the group, I believe it will be important to consider the report and its recommendations in total rather than in parts. Let me suggest that we begin the process that way and see how it goes!

Janet F. Carlson, President

Society for the Teaching of Psychology

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February 21, 2009

To: Maureen McCarthy, STP Past President

From: Release Time/Course Buy-out Working Group members
Regan Gurung
Elizabeth Yost Hammer
Andrew Johnson
Bryan Saville
Elizabeth Swenson, Chair

Re: Final Report of the Release Time/Course Buy-out
Working Group
Society for the Teaching of Psychology

The charge of the working group was to consider the following issues:

1. Positions that qualify for course buy-outs
2. Budget and method of expenditure for buy-outs
3. Additional related issues as necessary

The working group met by conference call on January 16 and February 13 to decide on a procedure for gathering data and to discuss conclusions for this information.

Current Practice

The following positions have course release buy-outs budgeted at the present time:

- President gets 1 course per year (usually used, in 2009 it is \$3750 instead of \$3000)
- OTRP Director get 2 courses per year (currently not used)
- Internet Editor get 1 course per year (currently not used)
- Program Director gets 2 courses per year (used)
- ToP Editor gets 2 courses per year (currently 1 is paid by his school)

Just approved in August:

- Wiki Developer gets 1 course per year -- Approved for the 2009, 2010 budgets only.
- Regional Coordinator gets 1 course per year--Approved for the 2009, 2010, 2011 budgets.

All buy-outs are at \$3000 unless otherwise noted.

Personnel Recommendations

The working group, after surveying those people who currently have course buy-outs budgeted for them, decided upon a general rule of thumb that a job requiring approximately 20 hours per week should have 2 course buy-outs a year. These recommendations followed:

1. The OTRP Director, the ToP Editor, and the Program Director should continue to have 2 course buy-outs a year.
2. The STP President should have an increase from 1 to 2 course buy-outs a year.
3. The Internet Editor should generally not have any course buy-out. (See point 3 under Budget Recommendations for a possible exception.)
4. The Treasurer should have 1 course buy-out a year.
5. The funding for the Wiki Developer and the Regional Coordinator should be reexamined at the end of the funded periods.

Budget Recommendations

1. Because the cost of a course buy-out varies widely from \$3000 to as much as \$6000, according to a survey of Psychology faculty, STP should use a figure of \$4000 per course buy-out as a more realistic figure. It is acknowledged that some will not require \$4000, while others may exceed this figure.
2. To have a buffer in the budget, an additional \$4000 should be budgeted for an additional "floating" course buy-out to be used for exceptional circumstances.
3. The jobs of Treasurer and of Internet Editor appear to have exceptionally steep learning curves in the first semester of service. Although this may justify the use of the floating course buy-out, the working group recommends that having an associate Internet Editor and an associate Treasurer (in the Treasurer's last term), with the expectation that these people will eventually become the Internet Editor and the Treasurer, will serve to train these individuals and thus eliminate the steep learning curves of these 2 jobs. Whatever the policy on travel stipends becomes in the reorganization of STP, the working group does not recommend that these associates be eligible for the stipends.

Subject: Voting Results re: Course Release Report and Recommendations
From: Janet Carlson <Jfcarlson57@AOL.COM>
Reply-To: STP Extended Executive Committee <TOPEC@LIST.KENNESAW.EDU>
Date: Wed, 18 Mar 2009 21:02:45 EDT

The motion to accept the Course Release Report and its recommendations, with the exception of the recommendation to fund an undesignated (floating) release each year, carried. As noted previously, the recommendations will be implemented in 2010.

Thanks to all who voted!

Sincerely,

Janet Carlson, President
Society for the Teaching of Psychology

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