Article 29-NTE
Pedagogical Development Course Releases
For Non-Tenure Eligible Faculty

29.1 Pedagogical Development Course Releases support Members who wish to engage in course redesign using innovative pedagogies to enhance student learning and involve students in active learning. Proposals should demonstrate how they will enhance the contribution of the individual as a teacher.

29.2 Eligibility: To be eligible for a Pedagogical Development Course Release (PDCR), a Member must have completed seven academic years of service as a full-time faculty member at Wright State University. Members may apply in their seventh year of service for a PDCR in the following year.

29.3 Proposals can request either 1 or 2 course releases, based on the amount of work being proposed.

29.4 Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, the University will provide ten course releases per academic year.

29.5 Procedure for Application and Review.

29.5.1 NTE Members seeking a Pedagogical Development Course Release(s) during the following academic year shall submit to the Department Chair by September 30 a leave proposal (5 page limit not including any supporting materials) and a current curriculum vitae. The proposal should address the following points:

- Description of the proposed project
- Statement of purpose of the proposed project emphasizing expected impact on student learning
- Core Element learning outcomes and innovation(s) to be addressed, as appropriate
- Assessment plan including direct and indirect measures of student learning and strategies for acting upon the findings and communicating the results to faculty
- The semester(s) for which the course release(s) is requested
- For previous recipients of a PDCR, a one-page summary of the outcomes from the previous award must be included

29.5.2 For each proposal, the Department Chair will provide a statement describing the potential value of the project outcome and the semester(s) when the Department can provide coverage for the Member’s course release(s) and forward the proposal with this statement to the Dean by October 15.

29.5.3 The Dean will either support or deny each proposal, writing a brief statement that supports the proposal or explains the reason(s) for denying the proposal. If two or more proposals in the college are supported, the Dean will rank them in priority order.
29.5.4 By November 1, each Dean will forward to the Provost and to the AAUP-WSU all supported proposals in priority order, all denied proposals, and the Chair and Dean statements. In the event that the total number of supported proposals can be awarded with the available course releases, then all supported proposals will be honored (and the Provost will so notify the Deans, who will in turn notify the applicants).

29.5.5 If there is an insufficient number of course releases available to honor all supported proposals, the Provost and the AAUP-WSU will forward all proposals to a seven-member committee: four committee members from four different colleges will be selected by the AAUP-WSU, and three committee members will be Department Chairs or Associate Deans selected by the University from the remaining three colleges. This committee will award course releases on a competitive basis using only the criteria in Sections 29.6-29.6.2, but without changing the priority order set by the Deans. Thus, for example, the committee will not award a course release(s) to an applicant ranked second in a dean’s priority order while denying a release(s) to the applicant ranked first in that same college.

29.6 All recommendations and decisions regarding the merits of course release proposals must be based upon the following criteria.

- Value of the anticipated outcome(s) to the needs of the department or college,
- Documented preparation for the proposed project(s),
- Applicant’s quality of teaching and service as reflected in the submitted curriculum vitae and proposal, and
- If applicable, demonstrated results from past PDCRs.

29.6.1 If two or more proposals are found to be of equal merit, then preference shall be given to the Member(s) who has never received a Pedagogical Development Course Release at the University. If two or more applying Members have previously taken such leave, then preference shall be given to the Member(s) with the longer(est) period of University service since he or she last received such leave. If two or more applying Members have never received a PDCR, then preference shall be given to the Member(s) with the longer(est) period of University service as a full-time faculty member.

29.6.2 All recommendations and decisions regarding the number of course releases to be awarded should take into account not only the merits of a proposal based on the criteria above, but also the length of time that the proposed work should take. Thus, for example, a proposal may be rated very highly on all the criteria 1-4 above but entail work that should only require one course release to complete, in which case awarding a single course release would be appropriate.