



**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE**

**January 20, 2023**

ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUSPENSION

**REQUEST:** Approval for academic program suspension for: Strategic Sports Communications Graduate Certificate.

**FACTS:** The Faculty have made the decision regarding closing admissions to the Strategic Sports Communications Graduate Certificate program due to low enrollment. The Academic Program Coordinator, Department Chair, Dean, and Provost support this program suspension decision. WKU will continue to support current students through completion of their program.

<b>Strategic Sports Communication, Graduate Certificate</b>	The faculty made the decision to stop admitting students to this graduate certificate program during the program faculty meeting on 10/18/2022 due to low enrollment and a lack of qualified faculty to teach all of the required courses in the program.
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**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:** Closing this graduate certificate program to new admissions will have a positive or neutral impact on the University Budget because of the efficiencies created by greater utilization of faculty in higher demand programs.

**RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the above listed academic program suspension to be implemented Spring 2023.

**MOTION:** Approval to suspend the Strategic Sports Communication Graduate Certificate with implementation in Spring 2023.

**SABBATICAL LEAVES**

**REQUEST:**

Approval of sabbatical leaves for faculty listed below.

**FACTS:**

Listed below are faculty members who have been recommended for sabbatical leave by the department chair/director, College Sabbatical Advisory Committee, college dean, and the provost. As of academic year 2023-2024, each will have served the university for at least six continuous full academic years, hold the rank of assistant professor or above, and have submitted a compelling sabbatical application for the purpose of professional academic enrichment.

***Gordon Ford College of Business***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Period of Leave</u>
Dr. Yining Chen	Accounting	Spring 2024

***Ogden College of Science and Engineering***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Period of Leave</u>
Dr. Gordon Baylis	Psychological Sciences	Academic Year 2023-24
Dr. Eric Conte	Chemistry	Spring 2024
Dr. Chris Groves	EEAS	Fall 2023
Dr. Ozkan Ozer	Mathematics	Fall 2023

***Potter College of Arts and Letters***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Period of Leave</u>
Michael Nichols	Art & Design	Fall 2023
Yvonne Petkus	Art & Design	Spring 2024
Dr. Davis Bell	English	Academic Year 2023-24
Dr. Trini Stickle	English	Spring 2024
Dr. Sophia Arjana	History	Spring 2024
Dr. Selena Doss	History	Academic Year 2023-24
Dr. Timothy Rich	Political Science	Spring 2024

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

No additional resources are necessary to accommodate the sabbatical leaves. Courses usually taught by these faculty will be reassigned to other faculty members by each respective department chair.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding the above individuals sabbatical leave for the terms indicated.

**MOTION: Approval of faculty sabbatical leaves for the above recommended individuals for the terms indicated.**

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**UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR  
APPOINTMENT**

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**REQUEST:** Approval of University Distinguished Professor appointment for Dr. Thomas Keith Philips, Professor of Biology, effective July 1, 2023.

**FACT:** Following a review of nominations, below is a faculty member who has been recommended by the University Distinguished Professorship Selection Committee and the Provost to be awarded University Distinguished Professor status effective July 1, 2023.

Dr. T. Keith Philips has brought distinction to the university through his internationally recognized, peer-reviewed research. His program is broad, groundbreaking, often with international scientists and especially includes studies on spider beetles, dung beetles, and cave ground beetles. Dr. Philips is considered a world expert on these groups by his peers, has described and named numerous genera and species, and published important phylogenetic and other diversity studies in his career. He has involved many undergraduate and graduate students in various research projects and has provided them exemplary experiences overseas to numerous localities, such as Ghana, South Africa, Bolivia, Peru, and Chile. Dr. Philips' research techniques stay current with the latest developments in technology. The recently collected data from Eastern Kentucky caves was analyzed using a cutting-edge Next Generation Sequencing technique. He has received external grants from, for example, the National Science Foundation (BSI and EPSCOR programs), as well as successfully competing for internally available research money to make the most of every research opportunity. Dr. Philips has a strong commitment to helping students become thinking, engaged and socially responsible citizens and leaders.

**RECOMMENDATION:** President Timothy C. Caboni recommends the appointment of Dr. T. Keith Philips as University Distinguished Professor of effective July 1, 2023.

**MOTION:** Approval of Dr. T. Keith Philips as University Distinguished Professor of effective July 1, 2023.

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**EMERITI  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**REQUEST:** Approval of faculty emeritus status for Drs. Sam Evans and John Moore and Mr. Rico Tyler.

**FACTS:** Listed below are faculty members who have been recommended by tenured faculty, department chair/director, and college dean to be awarded emeritus status. All have served the university for at least ten years and have had distinguished records of achievement and service.

*College of Education & Behavioral Sciences*

Dr. Sam Evans, Dean of the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences, Emeritus

Dr. John Moore, Professor of Teacher Education, Emeritus

Mr. Rico Tyler, Practitioner in Residence of Teacher Education, Emeritus

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:** No funds requested

**RECOMMENDATION:** President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding the above individuals emeritus status.

**MOTION:** Approval of emeritus status awarded for the recommended individuals.