

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SERIES: 3 | **Academic Affairs**
RULE: 34.1 | **Faculty Development**

Scope: | Rule regarding faculty development at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
Authority: | W. Va. Code § 18B-2A-4, 18B-7-6
Approval Date: | 7/26/06
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SECTION 1. Faculty Development.

- 1.1. Teaching, expanding knowledge and creativity, and devoting knowledge to public service are the primary goals of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. These goals are achieved primarily by and through college faculty. Therefore, the efforts of the Board of Governors in supporting, developing, and renewing the faculty members directly involved in helping West Virginians and others learn are vitally important to accomplishing the mission and goals of the institution.
- 1.2. The Board of Governors recognizes the general and specific benefits derived from efforts to improve faculty members' personal and professional effectiveness. Students rely on current, knowledgeable, and relevant instruction and benefit from research and community service that improves teaching skill and knowledge. The people and economy of West Virginia benefit from new applications of a knowledge and technology and quality of life. Faculties and individual faculty members benefit from being able to teach, acquire a new knowledge, serve public needs, and perform institutional and professional roles more effectively. Institutions of higher learning benefit from enhanced capacity and flexibility to carry out their missions in an era where it is more practical to enhance or renew skills and knowledge of existing faculty members.
- 1.3. Therefore, the Board of Governors affirms the unique, integral contribution of faculty members to the mission of higher education: teaching, producing scholarly work that contributes to knowledge and creativity, and serving public and institutional needs. The Board of Governors further recognizes through its policy and actions that the knowledge and skills of the faculty and individual faculty members need to be developed, maintained, supported, and renewed.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

- 2.1. Faculty Development. All activities designed to improve faculty performance in all aspects of their professional lives: as teachers stimulating and guiding students learning, as scholars, advisers designers, and evaluators of academic programs and courses, academic leaders, contributors to public service, participants in institutional decisions, and in other faculty roles for achieving the College's mission. The Board of Governors recognizes the beneficial components of faculty development, professional scholarly and creative development, personal development and organizational development. Examples of valid, tangible faculty development activities include but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.1 Sabbatical or academic leaves to complete a master's or doctorate, expand existing knowledge, learn a new field needed in the curriculum, or achieve other purposes;
 - 2.1.2 Workshops for improving faculty teaching skills;
 - 2.1.3 Workshops and internships to enhance faculty roles in academic leadership;

- 2.1.4 Seed money grants that enable faculty to pursue larger, external grants or contracts;
- 2.1.5 Projects to improve student advising or assessment of student learning;
- 2.1.6 Summer grants of summer mini-sabbaticals to develop a needed new program or course, conduct research on teaching, or accomplish other beneficial aims;
- 2.1.7 Attendance at academic conferences and meetings;
- 2.1.8 And programs to better orient faculty members and improve their skills.

SECTION 3. Faculty Eligibility

- 3.1. Any Person who is a full-time or part-time faculty member of the College is eligible for faculty development as determined by the President or designee in accordance with the Board of Governors rule. Full-time faculty members, including Vice Presidents, Deans, Divisions Directors, and program coordinators, are eligible to apply for all faculty development activities. In supporting faculty development for full-time and part-time faculty members, factors to be considered include the potential benefits and costs in the institution, the academic program, and the faculty member.
- 3.2. As noted elsewhere in this rule, faculty are responsible for improving their professional effectiveness, and the college is responsible for encouraging and motivating faculty members to participate in faculty development activities.

SECTION 4. College: Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1. The President, in consultation with the faculty, shall establish institutional rule on faculty development consistent with this rule.
 - 4.1.1. The President, in consultation with the faculty, shall establish a faculty development program. Through these faculty development and professional development programs, the institution shall conduct in-house faculty and professional development activities. Cooperation with the faculty development programs of other colleges and universities will be utilized, as appropriate. The President is responsible for addressing faculty development needs and for utilizing a variety of development activities appropriate to the institutional mission to meet the development needs of less experienced probationary faculty and experienced, tenured faculty. The College should strive for a balance of individual-oriented and group-oriented development activities to achieve a well-functioning program, and the President should periodically evaluate the results of the program.
 - 4.1.2. The President and the Executive Staff have the responsibility to exert leadership and support for faculty development since such administrative support is instrumental to achieving the personal and institutional benefits of faculty development.
 - 4.1.3. The President, in consultation with the faculty, should establish appropriate organizational structures, procedures, standards, and criteria for operating and assessing a faculty development program. These structures will include the Faculty Development Committee, Executive Staff, Deans, Division Directors, and program coordinators, and other structures, as needed.
- 4.2. Research and experience show that faculty development is most effective when dependable, consistent funding enables proper planning and implementation of development programs. In order to achieve continuity of financial support for faculty development, the College establishes a benchmark level of financial commitment to faculty development each year, at the discretion of the President and Executive Staff, appropriate to the College's mission and needs, and adjusted periodically to reflect changes in mission and needs.
 - 4.2.1. The College will pursue funding for faculty development, including applying for such faculty development grants or funds as the Community and Technical College System of WV may provide, pursuing other government or private grants or contracts, reallocating existing

campus resources, or allocating funds from the institutional collection and retention of enrollment fees.

- 4.2.2. The College has the responsibility for providing financial and logistical support to operate its faculty development program, including providing office space, administrative, clerical, and other necessary support.
- 4.2.3. The annual budget of the College will include funds to hire temporary replacements for faculty on leave.

SECTION 5. Individual Faculty Member Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1. Faculty members, in accordance with the best traditions of higher education, have a responsibility to improve their effectiveness in carrying out their professional roles.
- 5.2. Applicants for faculty development awards shall complete a faculty development plan, if required, for eligibility for faculty development project awards.
- 5.3. Applicants for faculty development may be asked to submit to the College a detailed plan for activity to be followed.
- 5.4. In accepting award of a faculty development proposal, the person shall sign a statement indicating awareness of and agreement to all the conditions specified in the proposal. Faculty members are responsible for using award funds for the legitimate purposes specified in their plan agreement.
- 5.5. If required, as a condition of a faculty development proposal, a faculty member shall file with the President or designee a written final report of development activities, results, and anticipated benefits to the faculty member and institution. A written final report may not be appropriate for all development projects.
- 5.6. Faculty member engaging in development activities are responsible for sharing their new learning or skills with other colleagues via publication, report, seminar, workshop, tutoring, or other appropriate ways of communicating among professionals.

SECTION 6. Funding

- 6.1. Funding for faculty development activities may come from appropriated funds, government grants or contract, private grants or contracts, or institutionally collected and retained enrollment fees.
- 6.2. Institutional faculty development programs, grants, and activities are subject to availability of appropriated and other funds for those purposes. As noted before, the Board of Governors, through the President, has the responsibility for making a good faith effort to ensure that adequate funding is available.

SECTION 7. Authorized Expenditures

- 7.1. Funds allocated for faculty development may be used to compensate or pay expenses for faculty member who are pursuing additional academic study or training, engaging in scholarship or other creative activity, pursuing teaching and instructional improvement, serving as faculty development coordinator, or performing other responsibilities consistent with the Board of Governors rules, or to compensate other individuals to allow faculty members to pursue development activities on released time.
- 7.2. Permissible support activities include, but are not limited to, providing for office space and administrative support for faculty development programs; and providing equipment and materials necessary for improving teaching, conducting research, or pursuing other valid development activities.
- 7.3. All expenditures must be consistent with Board of Governors rules.

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