

Sabbatical Leave Report (Spring 2022)

(to be completed upon return from sabbatical leave and returning to full service in Spring 2022; you must complete as described below)

Email *

dramos@miracosta.edu

PART I - Signature Page

A hard copy with signatures to be completed upon return from sabbatical leave and submitted to the SLC Administrative Assistant separately.

Download and print the Signature page here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1prXfgN2882dp4eX2eMwcfxCloi9zO8zN/view?usp=sharing>

Name *

Dean Ramos

Department *

Art

Date Submitted: *

MM DD YYYY

02 / 02 / 2022

Academic school year in which leave was taken: *

2020/2021

2021/2022

Semester in which leave was taken: *

(Do not include any unbanking as part of a sabbatical leave)

Fall

Spring

Full-year

Check the type of sabbatical leave: *

Advanced Academic Studies, or

Self-directed studies

PART II - Restatement of Sabbatical Leave Application.

COPY and PASTE original Sabbatical Leave abstract that was submitted with your application here:

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I propose to use contemporary materials and techniques to create 3-5 large scale outdoor figure sculptures. I will record and later edit videos and photos demonstrating creative processes. These recordings will be applicable to Art 217 and 219, Figure Sculpture 1 and 2, and they will be used for both on-ground and distance education.

PART III - Completion of Objectives, Description of Activities.**OBJECTIVE #1: ***

a) Copy and paste objective from application.

Research and perform initial material mixing and application tests to ensure that the sculptures I make are durable and lasting and that the selected materials are easy to work with, lightweight, and suitable for classroom instruction.

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b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #1 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

As I researched materials to use for my project, I discovered Silica Systems Inc. in Oceanside. Silica Systems sells pre-blended high-performance fiber cement mixes and state of the art concrete mix ingredients. Discovering that they were in Oceanside ended up being hugely beneficial.

When I visited Silica Systems and described my project, I was introduced to their director of operations who spent several hours discussing materials, giving me a tour of their facilities, and providing suggestions for the best material components to purchase and experiment with so that I could better familiarize myself with high strength fiber reinforced concrete (FRC) mixes.

This objective was accomplished by producing more than thirty (FRC) test tiles. This was done to test material strength, weight, and working properties.

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c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #1:

27

OBJECTIVE #2 (if applicable):

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

Create 3-5 large scale outdoor figure sculptures using contemporary materials and record and manage digital photos and videos of the creative processes.

b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #2 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

I made a total of fifteen Fiber Reinforced Concrete (FRC) sculptures, two were large scale figure sculptures and thirteen were abstract sculptures.

In making these sculptures, Styrofoam was used as an armature, an underlying structure that was first shaped and then used as a foundation to apply (FRC) mixtures upon.

After completing the first large scale figure sculpture (quartered bust), I felt that I was spending far too much time shaping Styrofoam and not enough familiarizing myself with the use of (FRC) as a sculpture material.

As a result, I determined that it would be wise to create a series of simpler abstract forms that would allow me to spend less time shaping Styrofoam and more time working with (FRC) mix combinations. To accomplish this, I produced eight (geodesic abstract structures). This was critical to the success of this sabbatical. In making these I was able to work with many different (FRC) formulations and note the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Having completed the eight geodesic abstract forms I applied what I learned to creating another large scale figurative sculpture (sliced bust).

As I approached the end of the sabbatical, I produced several relief sculptures. I chose to work more with Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA) fibers. Being safer to work with and more economical than glass fibers they are a better choice for introductory (FRC) classroom projects.

As I made the 15 sculptural works, I took hundreds of photographs and recorded 14 video clips demonstrating (FRC) processes and techniques. This is discussed further in objective #3.

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #2 (if applicable):

533

OBJECTIVE #3 (if applicable):

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

Edit video footage and photographs taken during objectives 1 and 2 to make them usable for instruction.

b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #3 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

During my sabbatical I edited the photos that I took and produced 4 PowerPoint presentations highlighting the creation of the 15 sculptures that were made. These presentations depict the sequential evolution of 4 different project categories:

the quartered bust
geodesic abstract structures
sliced bust
relief sculptures

The 14 video clips were edited to make 7 final videos demonstrating a variety of fiber reinforced concrete (FRC) techniques. They include:

making a dry mix for use in FRC sculpture
cutting and gluing foam layers
shaping a foam armature
preparing a foam form for FRC application
mixing a wet FRC mix
coating a foam form with an FRC mix
applying and texturing a finish coat

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #3 (if applicable):

42

OBJECTIVE #4 (if applicable):

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #4 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #4 (if applicable):

PART IV. - Contribution to District

In this section the individual who has concluded his/her sabbatical leave will restate and elaborate upon how the sabbatical activities contribute to the District by addressing the following:

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a. Explain how the study or project contributed to the professional development of the applicant.

In past semesters, students enrolled in my figure sculpture classes have worked with both plaster and ceramics. Fiber reinforced concrete (FRC) sculpture has similar working properties to these two materials. However, it can be placed outdoors without deteriorating like plaster and doesn't require expensive equipment such as a kiln like ceramics. This sabbatical has given me the skills necessary to teach student how to sculpt using (FRC). Students enrolled in my figure sculpture class will begin making cement sculptures in the Spring 2022 semester.

The videos and PowerPoints that I made will help supplement and reinforce classroom instruction and I will use these in my course's as soon as the Spring 2022 semester.

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b. Explain the anticipated short- and/or long-term benefits of your project on the following groups: students, department, college, and/or community. As appropriate, include specific information on SLOs, PSLOs, Core Competencies and/or equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Students:

Students enrolled in my figure sculpture courses will benefit from what I've learned about working with fiber reinforced concrete (FRC). This material will provide a way for them to make durable lightweight sculptures that can be placed outdoors without the use of expensive equipment and materials. The first SLO for both Art 217 and 219 states 'students will demonstrate a knowledge and mastery of figure sculpting'. As an art instructor I must continue to learn new skills and hone those that I have, to help students achieve the highest level of proficiency possible. Outdoor sculpture often has greater visibility than works displayed indoors. This provides opportunities for diverse viewpoints to be expressed publicly. Discussions and lessons on how such sculptures are made and how they influence societies are an important part of an art education. This is especially relevant to figurative sculptures which often confronts diverse social issues.

Department:

I have learned a great deal about FRC, and I have improved my skills documenting artworks. Both increase my value as an instructor.

When I began this sabbatical, I thought that I would be able to film videos on my own, using multiple cameras. However, as I tried, I quickly became aware of how important it is to have someone filming behind the camera. Luckily someone volunteered to help film my instructional videos. During the filming I directed where to place the camera to best capture what was being conveyed. My directions were later removed during the editing process. However, without an eye composing each shot, letting me know if my body or hands were fully in the frame, or if the image was in focus, the videos would not have been usable.

The importance of good documentation is discussed in many studio art courses and is covered in greater depth in Art 295, Visual Art & Professional Practice, which stresses portfolio development. As the department is considering rotating the instruction of Art 295 between full-time art faculty, having extensive knowledge of documentation methods is vital. I have given presentations about my past art projects in colleagues classes, at career pathway events and I will present documentation of this sabbatical on future occasions.

College / community:

As my job descriptions states, I 'must be an active contemporary artist'. I intend to display artworks that I made during this sabbatical, and future artwork that I make using what I've learned, within both the college art gallery and the San Diego community. In addition, I have and will continue to give lectures about my artwork at MiraCosta College and within the larger community at galleries and museums where I exhibit.

When doing so, I have and will make certain my affiliation as an art instructor at MiraCosta is noted in exhibition statements and publications.

PART V. Documentation.

If you performed Advanced Academic Studies, your transcripts are to be attached to this section of the hardcopy of your report. If you performed self-directed studies, attach a weekly log in table form (e.g. generated in Excel or Word program – see sample table HERE (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B65aNZyaBt-IRGowWWtgRkNhVm8/view?usp=sharing>)) for each objective. A column of hours should be dedicated to each objective with a total of calculated hours at the end of each column. The sum of these columns must total 576 hours or more. You may also add a separate column that indicates any hours devoted to additional activities that were not originally provided in your application. These should not be included in your final sum of approved hours completed.

* Additional Sabbatical Leave Activities may not be counted toward the 576 hours that were originally approved.

Sum total of hours completed for approved activities: *

602

Link to Google folder with documentation files: *

Please enter the shareable link to your table of hours or, if applicable, to a shareable folder with other documentation such as transcripts, appendices, etc... Make sure the shareable link is set to "view". Press either the enter key or space bar after each link.

Documentation was reviewed and approved by the SLC task force.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

This form was created inside of MiraCosta College.

Google Forms