

Fall 2012

[Sabbatical Report]

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January 30, 2013

FROM: H. Youn Kim, Professor of Economics

TO: Dr. Gordon Emslie, Provost

SUBJECT: Sabbatical Report

I proposed to achieve two things with my planned sabbatical leave in the Fall semester, 2012: develop new course materials and embark on a new research project.

For new course materials, I was planning to develop pre-Ph D macroeconomics course materials for economics graduate students who want to pursue a Ph D degree during my sabbatical leave. Instead, with an ever increasing demand for online courses, I felt a more urgent need to upgrade my online instruction, so I used my sabbatical time to undertake some training through DELO in the Fall semester. I had a series of meetings with DELO to redesign my Blackboard course materials by including many activities for student participation. This also has allowed me to change my instruction for my face-to-face classes by including student activities using Blackboard. I have incorporated the new Blackboard design into this semester's online and face-to-face courses.

For a new research project, I commenced the research as proposed in my application in collaboration with Keith McLaren of Monash University, Australia and Gary Wong of the University of Macau, China. I had worked with them on a related project which will be published in a journal this year. The new project is titled "Consumer Demand, Consumption, and Asset Pricing: An Integrated Analysis." In this project, I intend to integrate seemingly disjoint studies on consumer behavior in micro and macro analyses in a multicommodity framework via the intertemporal two-stage budgeting procedure by allowing for durable goods and liquidity constraints. The model accounts for the influences of nondurables consumption, commodity prices, and durables stock on commodity demands as well as consumption and asset returns. I have developed a theoretical model and am currently working on empirical analysis using U.S. data. I expect to finish the project in a few months. I and my coauthors are planning to present the results of our research to WKU's economics department workshop and academic conferences. Then we will submit the paper to publish in a scholarly journal.

Thank you for granting me a sabbatical leave. It has certainly helped me to enhance my professional development.