Sabbatical Study: Process and Impact

Harry J. Berman, Provost, UIS
Presented to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
March 9, 2010
Presentation Outline

• The rationale for sabbaticals
• The process for awarding sabbatical study leaves
• Data on sabbaticals proposed for FY 11
  o 3 examples of what faculty propose to do
Sabbaticals – Intense Study Leave

Sabbaticals provide an essential, highly focused period of time for faculty development –

• for the acquisition of new knowledge in a newly pertinent field
• for completing research proposals that will fund future research,
• for bringing matured projects to completion,
• for rethinking courses, majors, the curriculum, and the structure of degrees.
Sabbatical Process Overview

Sabbaticals earned, not an entitlement

• Eligibility Criteria

• Detailed statement of plans
  – Leave must enhance the faculty member’s value to the University
  – The work of the unit will not be disrupted by the leave
  – Resources need to be identified

• Thorough Review
  – By Unit Head, Dean/Director
  – Approval by the Provost
  – Review by Chancellor
  – Concurrence by Vice President for Academic Affairs

• Recommendations submitted to the BOT office

• Board Approval
AY 2010-11 Sabbatical Proposals

• 175 Sabbaticals from 96 departments
• Semester or year-long
• Diverse purposes
  – Lead a multidisciplinary national team of industry and academicians to prepare a U.S. EPA proposal
  – Collaborate with international investigators to study the association between pesticides and childhood cancers
  – Study legislative decision-making through structured interviews of Illinois State legislators
Impact of Sabbatical

Dr. Kara Federmeier
Department Psychology
College Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana