

Guidelines for the Distribution of Professional Development Funds
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Revised and Approved, 2022

Preamble:

As per the UA agreement, the department receives an allocation of professional development funds (PDF) that is based on the count of eligible faculty members and is intended to “support faculty travel for professional development or for use in other professional development activities.” These funds are not intended to be distributed equally; rather, they constitute a pool of resources whose distribution will provide the maximal collective benefit to the department through the support of merited individual needs. This document discusses the criteria and procedures for distribution of these funds.

Faculty seeking such funds shall apply via email to the department chair who will decide whether to approve funds or not. The chair will take into account the following: the availability of funds, competing applications for support, and the relevance and benefit, short and long term, of the proposed travel or other professional purpose to the faculty member and department. No request can be denied solely because of the status or rank of the faculty member making the request.

Criteria:

- Eligible faculty include all faculty members that are represented by the full-time bargaining unit. Faculty with joint appointments will generally receive professional development funds in proportion to their appointment percentage in the department.
- In accordance to the UA agreement (Article 21, Item 6), faculty members holding external research grants are expected to use their grant funds specifically designated for professional development or travel prior to applying for any funds described in this document.
- Eligible items for funding include, but shall not be limited to: professional travel (including both the faculty member’s travel to other places, and that of visitors to UVM invited by the faculty member), books, subscriptions, professional membership fees and dues, hardware, software, office equipment and supplies. PDF funds cannot be used for salaries of any kind.
- The criteria for approval of requests are: (1) travel requests are a top priority, (2) professional membership fees and dues; (3) books and journal subscriptions, (4) other items.
- All eligible faculty members will generally be granted at least the minimum of {\$300 and (\$1200 times their departmental percentage)} for professional development. They must present a written or email request for an eligible item to the Department Chair. This is not an entitlement, however, and the faculty member must always justify the need for the request.

Procedures:

- Faculty seeking funds shall apply via email to the department chair and provide clear justification for use of funds.
- All funds must be spent on requests made by eligible faculty members.
- Early in the fall semester of each academic year, the chair will provide the Department an end-of-year accounting of how PDFs were spent in the previous academic year.