

ARTICLE 17

LEAVES

17.1 Requests for a Leave or Extension of Leave of One Semester or More.

- (a) For a leave of one semester or more, an employee shall make a written request not less than 120 days prior to the beginning of the proposed leave, if practicable.
- (b) For an extension of a leave of one semester or more, an employee shall make a written request not less than sixty days before the end of the leave, if practicable.
- (c) The University shall approve or deny such request in writing not later than thirty days after receipt of the request.
- (d) An absence without approved leave or extension of leave shall subject the employee to the provisions of Article 16.
- (e) An employee's request for use of leave for an event covered by the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 (Public Law 103-3) shall be submitted and responded to in accordance with the provisions of the FMLA and its implementing regulations.

17.2 Return from Leave. An employee who returns from an approved leave of absence with or without pay shall be returned to the same classification, unless the University and the employee agree in writing to other terms and conditions. The return from FMLA leave shall be governed by the FMLA and its implementing regulations, as discussed in Section 17.6.

17.3 Accrual During Leave with Pay. An employee shall accrue normal leave credits while on compensated leave in full-pay status, or while participating in the sabbatical or professional development programs. If an employee is on compensated leave in less than full-pay status for other than sabbaticals or professional development programs, the employee shall accrue leave in proportion to the pay status.

17.4 Tenure Credit During Periods of Leave. Semester(s) during which an employee is on compensated or uncompensated leave shall be creditable for the purpose of determining eligibility for tenure except by mutual agreement of the employee and the University. Time spent on family and medical, parental, administrative, or military leave, whether paid or unpaid, shall not be tenure-earning unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the employee and the president or president's representative in writing at the time such leave begins. Upon return from military leave, an employee may request that the time spent on military leave be tenure-earning, which request must be granted by the president or president's representative. Time spent on paid or unpaid leave for any purpose not otherwise listed herein shall be tenure-earning unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the employee and the president or president's representative in writing at the time such leave begins.

17.5 Holidays.

- (a) An employee shall be entitled to observe all official holidays designated in accordance with Section 110.117, Florida Statutes. No classes or examinations shall be scheduled on holidays. Classes not held because of a holiday shall not be rescheduled.
- (b) Supervisors are encouraged not to require an employee to perform duties on holidays; however, an employee required to perform duties on holidays shall have the employee's schedule adjusted to provide equivalent time off, up to a maximum of eight hours for each holiday worked.
- (c) If an employee who has performed duties on a holiday terminates employment prior to being given time off, the employee shall be paid, upon termination, for the holiday hours worked within the previous twelve month period.

17.6 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Entitlements.

- (a) The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") is the common name for the Federal law providing eligible employees an entitlement of up to twelve weeks of leave without pay for qualified family or medical reasons during a one-year period. This Act entitles the employee to take leave without pay; where University policies permit, employees may use accrued leave with pay during any qualifying family or medical leave. Employees are entitled to use FMLA in accordance with law and University policies. The failure to list, define, or specify any particular provision or portion of the FMLA in this Agreement shall in no way constitute a waiver of any of the rights or benefits conferred to the employer or the employee through the FMLA.

17.7 Parental Leave Options. The University of Central Florida provides a supportive environment that enables employees to address the complexity of balancing their work and family commitments. The University provides the following

leave options when an employee becomes a biological parent, a child is placed for adoption in the employee's home, or the employee becomes the legal guardian of a child.

(a) **Modified Work Duties.** If the employee normally has an instructional assignment, then, after consultation with the employee, the supervisor shall determine that:

(1) the assignment be changed to a non-instructional assignment for the academic semester during which the child is expected to arrive; or

(2) the employee's work schedule may be altered.

(3) once the modified plan is agreed to by the employee and his or her supervisor, it shall be reviewed by the dean or vice president. The dean or vice president shall either approve the modified work plan, or work in collaboration with the supervisor and employee to reach an acceptable solution.

(b) **Paid Parental Leave.** Employees are eligible for paid parental leave as follows.

(1) An employee shall be granted, upon request, a paid parental leave for a period of 19.5 contiguous weeks (for twelve-month employees only) or one regular (Fall or Spring) semester, (or up to 3 months for non-instructional employees) for the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal guardianship of a child. Parental leave may be used no more than twice during the employee's employment at the University. If both parents are employees of the University, only one parent may request paid parental leave under this program for each qualifying event (birth or adoption).

(2) In order to participate in this program, an employee must be employed for a minimum of one academic year on at least a 0.75 FTE line. This program does not apply to individuals on a temporary, a term limited, or a visiting appointment. Furthermore, employees on soft money shall be eligible to the extent that such benefits are permitted by the terms of the contract or grant, the rules of the funding agency, and/or adequate funds are available.

(3) The employee will request the use of paid parental leave in writing no later than three months prior to the anticipated beginning of the leave and the leave must occur no later than a semester immediately following the birth or adoption event. A shorter notice period may be permitted for good cause and/or special circumstances at the discretion of the provost or designee. Parental leave is separate from, but may run concurrent with, medical or FMLA leave.

(4) The employee will sign a written agreement detailing the terms of the paid parental leave. Participation in paid parental leave is contingent upon execution of the signed agreement.

(5) The employee must agree in writing to return to University employment for at least one academic year following participation in the program. This time does not include time awarded for a sabbatical or other type of leave. For example, it would be possible for a nine-month employee to take a sabbatical and then opt for the parental leave program. In that case, the employee would need to return to active university service for one year for each of the programs; in this case, two academic years.

(6) Repayment of salary, retirement, benefits, and expenses received during paid parental leave shall be required in those instances where payments are made in the absence of a signed agreement by the employee, or when the employee fails to comply with the terms of the program.

(7) An employee who makes use of parental leave and who remains in University employment for at least one academic year (calendar year for non-instructional faculty) following participation in the parental leave program shall have the total number of hours used deducted from the employee's sick leave and/or annual leave balance (with sick leave being deducted first) that the employee has remaining at the time of separation from the University, or upon transferring between an annual leave and non-annual leave accruing contract.

(8) Employees on paid parental leave cannot engage in outside employment unless approved in advance.

(c) **Unpaid Parental Leave.**

(1) If an employee is ineligible or chooses not to use a modified work assignment as described in 17.7(a) or paid parental leave as described in 17.7(b), the employee may request and shall be granted an unpaid parental leave not to exceed six months when the employee becomes a biological parent or a child is placed for adoption in the employee's home.

(2) Employees on parental leave may use up to six weeks of paid sick leave for the period of leave immediately following the birth of a child (or eight weeks following a C-Section). Parental leave beyond the six week period may be covered by other accrued paid leave or remain a period of unpaid leave. Use of accrued leave during an approved period of leave without pay shall be in accordance with Section 17.11.

(3) the period of parental leave shall begin no more than two weeks before the expected date of the child's arrival.

a. the president or designee shall acknowledge to the employee in writing the period of leave to be granted, and the date of return to employment.

b. any illness caused or contributed to by pregnancy, when certified by a health care provider shall be treated as temporary disability if requested, and the employee shall be allowed to use accrued sick leave credits. In such a case, a Medical or Parental Leave Request Form and a UCF Medical Certification Form is required. Pregnancy shall not be considered a disability.

17.8 Leaves Due to Illness/Injury. When an employee is absent with a serious health condition and wishes to request FMLA protection or is absent more than 10 days due to illness or injury, a Medical or Parental Leave Request Form and a UCF Medical Certification Form must be submitted to the employee's supervisor or to Human Resources as soon as practicable. Illness/Injury is defined as any physical or mental impairment of health, including such an impairment proximately resulting from pregnancy, which does not allow an employee to fully and properly perform the duties of the employee's position. When an employee's illness/injury may be covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the provisions of Public Law 101-336 shall apply.

(a) Sick Leave.

(1) Accrual of Sick Leave.

a. A full-time employee shall accrue four (4) hours of sick leave for each biweekly pay period, or the number of hours that are directly proportionate to the number of days worked during less than a full-pay period, without limitation as to the total number of hours that may be accrued.

b. A part-time employee shall accrue sick leave at a rate directly proportionate to the percent of time employed.

c. An employee appointed under Other Personal Services (OPS) shall not accrue sick leave.

(2) Uses of Sick Leave.

a. Sick leave shall be accrued before being taken, provided that an employee who participates in a sick leave pool shall not be prohibited from using sick leave otherwise available to the employee through the sick leave pool.

b. Sick leave shall be authorized for the following:

1. The employee's personal illness, exposure to a contagious disease which would endanger others, or disability where the employee is unable to perform his/her assigned duties.

2. The employee's personal appointments with a health care provider.

3. The illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family, at the discretion of the supervisor. Approval of requests for use of reasonable amounts of sick leave for caring for a member of the employee's immediate family shall not be unreasonably withheld. "Immediate family" means the spouse and the grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren of both the employee and the spouse and dependents living in the household.

4. The death of a member of the employee's immediate family, at the discretion of the supervisor. Approval of requests for use of reasonable amounts of sick leave for the death of a member of the employee's immediate family shall not be unreasonably withheld.

c. A continuous period of sick leave commences with the first day of absence and includes all subsequent days until the employee returns to work. For this purpose, Saturdays, Sundays, and official holidays observed by the State shall not be counted unless the employee is scheduled to perform services on such days. During any seven (7) day period, the maximum number of days of sick leave charged against any employee shall be five (5).

d. An employee who requires the use of sick leave should notify the supervisor as soon as practicable.

e. An employee who becomes eligible for the use of sick leave while on approved annual leave shall, upon notifying the supervisor, substitute the use of accrued sick leave to cover such circumstances.

(3) Certification. If an employee's request for absence or absence exceeds four (4) consecutive days, or if a pattern of absence is documented, the University may require an employee to furnish certification signed by an attending health care provider affirming the medical reasons necessitating the absence and/or the employee's ability to return to work. If the medical certification furnished by the employee is not acceptable, the employee may be required to submit to a medical examination by a health care provider who is not a University staff member which shall be paid for by the University. If the medical certification indicates that the employee is unable to perform assigned duties, the president or representative may place the employee on compulsory leave under the conditions set forth in Section 17.8(c).

(4) Transfer of Credits. Currently, there are no statutory provisions for the transfer of accrued sick and, if applicable, annual leave balances between the University and any other state university or any state agency.

(5) Payment for Unused Sick Leave.

a. An employee with less than ten (10) years of State service who separates from State government shall not be paid for any unused sick leave.

b. An employee who was hired on or before January 6, 2003, has completed ten (10) or more years of State and/or University service, has not been found guilty or has not admitted to being guilty of committing, aiding, or abetting any embezzlement, theft, or bribery in connection with State government, or has not been found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of having violated any State law against or prohibiting strikes by public employees, and separates from State government because of retirement for other than disability reasons, termination, or death, shall be compensated for the employee's unused sick leave at the employee's current regular hourly rate of pay for one-eighth of all unused sick leave accrued prior to October 1, 1973, plus one-fourth of all unused sick leave accrued on or after October 1, 1973; provided that one-fourth of the unused sick leave since 1973 does not exceed 480 hours.

c. An employee who was hired on or after January 7, 2003, has completed ten (10) or more years of University service, has not been found guilty of or has not admitted to being guilty of committing, aiding, or abetting any embezzlement, theft, or bribery in connection with state government, or has not been found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of having violated any state law against or prohibiting strikes by public employees, and separates from employment because of non-disability retirement, termination, or death shall be compensated for the employee's unused sick leave at the employee's most recent regular hourly rate of pay for one fourth of all unused sick leave, provided that one fourth of the unused accrued sick leave does not exceed 480 hours.

d. Upon layoff, an employee with ten (10) or more years of University service shall be paid for unused sick leave in accord with the criteria described in paragraphs 17.8(a)(5)b and c, above, unless the employee requests in writing that unused sick leave be retained pending re-employment. For an employee who is re-employed by the University within twelve (12) calendar months following layoff, all unused sick leave shall be restored to the employee, provided the employee requests such action in writing and repays the full amount of any lump sum leave payments received at the time of layoff. An employee who is not re-employed within twelve (12) calendar months following layoff shall be paid for sick leave.

e. All payments for unused sick leave shall be made in lump sum and shall not be used in determining the average final compensation of an employee in any State administered retirement system. An employee shall not be carried on the payroll beyond the last official day of employment, except that an employee who is unable to perform duties because of a disability may be continued on the payroll until all sick leave is exhausted.

f. If an employee has received a lump sum payment for accrued sick leave, the employee may elect in writing, upon re-employment within 100 days, to restore the employee's accrued sick leave. Restoration will be effective upon the repayment of the full lump sum leave payment.

g. In the event of the death of an employee, payment for unused sick leave at the time of death shall be made to the employee's beneficiary, estate, or as provided by law.

(b) Job-Related Illness/injury.

(1) An employee who sustains a job-related illness/injury that is compensable under the Workers' Compensation Law shall be carried in full-pay status for a period of medically certified illness/injury not to exceed seven (7) days immediately following the illness/injury, or for a maximum of forty (40) work hours if taken intermittently without being required to use accrued sick or annual leave.

(2) If, as a result of the job-related illness/injury, the employee is unable to resume work at the end of the period provided in paragraph 17.8(b)(1), above:

a. The employee may elect to use accrued leave in an amount necessary to receive salary payment that will increase the Workers' Compensation payments to the total salary being received prior to the occurrence of the illness/injury. In no case shall the employee's salary and Workers' Compensation benefits exceed the amount of the employee's regular salary payments; or

b. The employee shall be placed on leave without pay and shall receive normal Workers' Compensation benefits if the employee has exhausted all accrued leave in accordance with paragraph 17.8(b)(2)(a), above, or the employee elects not to use accrued leave.

(3) This period of leave with or without pay shall be in accordance with Chapter 440 (Worker's Compensation), Florida Statutes.

(4) If, at the end of the leave period, the employee is unable to return to work and perform assigned duties, the president or representative should advise the employee, as appropriate, of the Florida Retirement System's disability provisions and application process, and may, based upon a current medical certification by a health care provider prescribed in accordance with Chapter 440 (Worker's Compensation), Florida Statutes, and taking the University's needs into account:

a. offer the employee part-time employment;

b. place the employee in leave without pay status or extend such status;

c. request the employee's resignation; or

d. release the employee from employment, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement.

(c) Compulsory Leave.

(1) Placing Employee on Compulsory Leave.

a. If an employee is unable to perform assigned duties due to illness/injury the president or representative may require the employee to submit to a medical examination, the results of which shall be released to the University, by a health care provider chosen and paid by the University, or by a health care provider chosen and paid by the employee, who is acceptable to the president or representative. Such health care provider shall submit the appropriate medical certification(s) to the University.

b. If the University agrees to accept the employee's choice of a health care provider the University may not then require another University-paid examination.

c. If the medical examination confirms that the employee is unable to perform assigned duties, the president or representative shall place the employee on compulsory leave.

(2) Conditions of Compulsory Leave.

a. Written notification to the employee placing the employee on compulsory leave shall include the duration of the compulsory leave period and the conditions under which the employee may return to work. These conditions may include the requirement of the successful completion of, or participation in, a program of rehabilitation or treatment, and follow-up medical certification(s) by the health care provider, as appropriate.

b. The compulsory leave period may be leave with pay or leave without pay. If the compulsory leave combines the use of accrued leave with leave without pay, the use of such leave shall be in accordance with Section 17.11.

c. If the employee fulfills the terms and conditions of the compulsory leave and receives a current medical certification that the employee is able to perform assigned duties, the president or representative shall return the employee to the employee's previous duties, if possible, or to equivalent duties.

(3) Duration. Compulsory leave, with or without pay, shall be for a period not to exceed the duration of the illness/injury or one year, whichever is less.

(4) Failure to Complete Conditions of Compulsory Leave or Inability to Return to Work. If the employee fails to fulfill the terms and conditions of a compulsory leave and/or is unable to return to work and perform assigned duties at the end of a leave period, the president or representative should advise the employee, as appropriate, of the Florida Retirement System's disability provisions and application process, and may, based upon the University's needs:

a. offer the employee part-time employment;

b. place the employee in leave without pay status in accordance with Section 17.11 or extend such status;

c. request the employee's resignation; or

d. release the employee from employment, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement.

17.9 Annual Leave.

(a) Accrual of Annual Leave.

(1) Full-time employees appointed for more than nine (9) months, except employees on academic year appointments, shall accrue annual leave at the rate of 6.769 hours biweekly or 14.667 hours per month (or a number of hours that is directly proportionate to the number of days worked during less than a full-pay period for full-time employees), and the hours accrued shall be credited at the conclusion of each pay period or, upon termination, at the effective date of termination. Employees may accrue annual leave in excess of the year end maximum during a calendar year. Employees with accrued annual leave in excess of the year end maximum as of December 31, shall have any excess converted to post October 1, 1973 sick leave on an hour-for-hour basis on January 1 of each year.

(2) Part-time employees appointed for more than nine (9) months, except employees on academic year appointments, shall accrue annual leave at a rate directly proportionate to the percent of time employed.

(3) Academic year employees, employees appointed for less than nine (9) months, and OPS employees shall not accrue annual leave.

(4) At the request of the employee, he or she shall be permitted to use accrued annual leave for all or part of medical or parental leave.

(b) Use and Transfer of Annual Leave.

(1) Annual leave shall be accrued before being taken, except in those instances where the president or representative may authorize the advancing of annual leave. When leave has been advanced and employment is terminated prior to the employee accruing sufficient annual leave to credit against the leave that was advanced, the University shall deduct from the employee's warrant the cost of any annual leave advanced under this provision. All requests for annual leave shall be submitted by the employee to the supervisor as far in advance as possible and appropriate. Approval of the dates on which an employee wishes to take annual leave shall be at the discretion of the supervisor and shall be subject to the consideration of departmental/unit and organizational scheduling.

(2) Upon re-employment with the University within 100 days, except for re-employment after layoff (see 17.9(c)(3), below), the employee may choose to reinstate their annual leave balance by repaying the full lump-sum annual leave payment received.

(3) An employee may transfer into an annual leave accruing position up to forty-four (44) days of unused leave accrued in the University classification and pay plan in which previously employed, provided the employee has not received payment for such leave and no more than thirty-one (31) days have elapsed between jobs.

(4) When an annual leave accruing employee moves to a position in State government, the transfer of leave shall be governed by the rules of the plan to which the employee is transferring. Should all unused leave not be transferable, up to forty-four days (352 hours) of the remaining balance shall be paid in lump sum, effective the last day of University employment, without affecting other leave benefits.

(5) The transfer of unused annual leave from a local government to an annual leave accruing position is not permitted unless a reciprocal agreement in writing between the University or its representative and the previous employing entity is in effect.

(c) Payment for Unused Annual Leave.

(1) Upon termination from an annual leave accruing contract, or transfer from an annual leave accruing contract to an academic year contract, and unless the employee requests the option in (2) below, the University shall pay the employee for up to forty-four days (352 hours) of unused annual leave at the calendar year rate the employee was accruing as of the employee's last day of work, provided that a determination has been made by the president or representative that the employee was unable to reduce the unused annual leave balance prior to termination or reassignment to an academic year contract. All unused annual leave in excess of forty-four days (352 hours) shall be transferred to the employee's sick leave.

(2) Upon transfer from an annual leave accruing contract to an academic year contract at the University, the employee may elect to retain all unused annual leave until such time, not to exceed two (2) years, as the employee transfers back to an annual leave accruing contract or terminates employment with the University. Upon such termination or at the end of two (2) years, whichever comes first, the unused leave balance shall be paid in lump sum for up to forty-four days (352 hours) at the annual rate the employee was accruing as of the employee's last day of work on an annual leave accruing contract.

(3) Upon layoff, an employee shall be paid for up to forty-four days (352 hours) of unused annual leave in lump sum, unless the employee requests in writing that annual leave credits be retained pending re-employment. For employees who are re-employed by the University within twelve (12) calendar months following layoff, all unused annual leave shall be restored to the employee, provided the employee requests such action in writing and repays the full amount of any lump sum leave payment received at the time of layoff. Employees who are not re-employed within twelve (12) calendar months following layoff and who elected to retain their annual leave pending re-employment shall be paid for up to forty-four days (352 hours) of unused annual leave at the calendar rate the employee was accruing as of the employee's last day of work.

(4) If an employee has received a lump sum payment for accrued annual leave, the employee may elect in writing, upon re-employment within 100 days, to restore the employee's accrued annual leave. Restoration will be effective upon the repayment of the full lump sum leave payment.

(5) In the event of the death of an employee, payment for all unused annual leave at the time of death, up to 352 hours, shall be made to the employee's beneficiary, estate, or as provided by law.

17.10 Administrative Leaves.

(a) Jury Duty and Court Appearances.

(1) An employee who is summoned as a member of a jury panel or subpoenaed as a witness in a matter not involving the employee's personal interests, shall be granted leave with pay and any jury or witness fees shall be retained by the employee; leave granted hereunder shall not affect an employee's annual or sick leave balance.

(2) An appearance as an expert witness for which an employee receives professional compensation falls under Article 19 and the University's policies and regulations relative to outside employment/conflict of interest. Such an appearance may necessitate the employee requesting annual leave or, if a non-annual leave accruing employee, may necessitate the employee seeking an adjustment of the work schedule.

(3) If an employee is required, as a direct result of the employee's employment, to appear as an official witness to testify in the course of any action as defined in Section 92.142(2), Florida Statutes, such duty shall be considered a part of the employee's job assignment, and the employee shall be paid per diem and travel expenses and shall turn over to the University any fees received.

(4) An employee involved in personal litigation during work hours must request annual leave or, if a non-annual leave accruing employee, must seek an adjustment to the work schedule.

(b) Military Leave.

(1) Short-term Military Training. An employee who is a member of the United States Armed Forces Reserve, including the National Guard, upon presentation of a copy of the employee's official orders, letter from the Commanding Officer or appropriate military certification, shall be granted leave with pay during periods in which the employee is engaged in annual field training or other active or inactive duty for training exercises. Such leave with pay shall not exceed two hundred and forty (240) hours in any one (1) university fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Additional leave for training may be taken as ordered by the military, however annual leave, compensatory leave or leave without pay may be utilized to cover the additional time necessary for training.

(2) National Guard State Service. An employee who is a member of the Florida National Guard shall be granted leave with pay on all days when ordered to active service by the State. Such leave with pay shall not exceed thirty (30) days at any one time.

(3) Other Military Leave.

a. An employee, except an employee who is employed in a temporary position or employed on a temporary basis, who is drafted, who volunteers for active military service, or who is ordered to active duty (not active duty

training) shall be granted leave in accordance with Chapter 43 of Title 38, United States Code. Active military service includes active duty with any branch of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard of the State of Florida, or other service.

b. Such leave of absence shall be verified by official orders or appropriate military certification. The first thirty (30) days of such leave shall be with full-pay and shall not affect an employee's annual or sick leave balance. The remainder of military leave shall be without pay unless the employee elects to use accumulated annual leave or appropriate leave as provided in 17.10(d)(4) below, or the employer exercises its option to supplement the employee's military pay. Leave payment for the first thirty (30) days shall be made only upon receipt of documentation from appropriate military authority.

c. Applicable provisions of Federal and State law shall govern the granting of military leave and the employee's re-employment rights.

d. Use of accrued leave is authorized during a military leave without pay in accordance with Section 17.11.

(c) **Leave Pending Investigation.** When the president or representative has reason to believe that the employee's presence on the job will adversely affect the operation of the University, the president or representative may immediately place the employee on leave pending investigation of the event(s) leading to that belief. The leave pending investigation shall commence immediately upon the president or representative providing the employee with a written notice of the reasons therefor. The leave shall be with pay, with no reduction of accrued leave.

(d) **Other Leaves Provided Not Affecting Accrued Leave Balances.** An employee may be granted other leaves not affecting accrued leave balances which are provided as follows:

(1) **Florida Disaster Volunteer Leave** is provided for an employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross. Leave of absence with pay for not more than fifteen (15) working days in the fiscal year may be provided upon request of the American Red Cross and the employee's supervisor's approval. Leave granted under this act shall be only for services related to a disaster occurring within the boundaries of the State of Florida.

(2) **Civil disorder or disaster leave** is provided for an employee who is member of a volunteer fire department, police auxiliary or reserve, civil defense unit, or other law enforcement type organization to perform duties in time of civil disturbances, riots, and natural disasters, including an employee who is a member of the Civil Air Patrol or Coast Guard Auxiliary, and called upon to assist in emergency search and rescue missions. Such paid leave not affecting leave balances may be granted upon approval by the president or designee and shall not exceed two days on any one occasion.

(3) **Athletic competition leave** is provided for an employee who is a group leader, coach, official, or athlete who is a member of the official delegation of the United States team for athletic competition. Such paid leave not affecting leave balances shall be granted for the purpose of preparing for and engaging in the competition for the period of the official training camp and competition, not to exceed 30 days in a calendar year.

(4) **Leave for re-examination or treatment with respect to service-connected disability** is provided by Section 110.119, Florida Statutes, for an employee who has such rating by the United State Department of Veterans Affairs and has been scheduled to be reexamined or treated for the disability. Upon presentation of written confirmation of having been so scheduled, such leave not affecting the employee's leave balances shall be approved and shall not exceed six (6) calendar days in any calendar year.

(e) **Official Emergency Closings.** The president or president's representative may close the University, or portions of the University in accordance with University policies and regulations relating to natural disasters or other emergencies. Such closings will be only for the period it takes to restore normal working conditions. Leave resulting from such an emergency closing shall not reduce employees' leave balances.

17.11 Leave Without Pay.

(a) **Granting.** Upon request of an employee, the president or representative shall grant a leave without pay for a period not to exceed one year unless the president or representative determines that granting such leave would be inconsistent with the best interests of the University. Such leave may be extended upon mutual agreement.

(b) **Salary Adjustment.** The salary of an employee returning from uncompensated leave shall be adjusted to reflect all non-discretionary increases distributed during the period of leave. While on such leave, an employee shall be eligible to participate in any special salary incentive programs such as the Teaching Incentive Program.

(c) **Retirement Credit.** Retirement credit for such periods of leave without pay shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the Division of Retirement and the provisions of Chapter 121, Florida Statutes.

(d) **Accrual of Leave/Holiday Pay.** While on leave without pay, the employee shall retain accumulated sick leave and annual leave, but shall not accrue sick leave or annual leave nor be entitled to holiday pay.

(e) **Use of Accrued Leave During an Approved Period of Leave Without Pay.**

(1) **Use of accrued leave with pay** is authorized during a leave of absence without pay for parental, foster care, medical, or military reasons. Such use of leave with pay is provided under the following conditions:

a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 17.8(a)(2) regarding the use of sick leave, an employee may use any type of accrued leave in an amount necessary to cover the employee's contribution to the State insurance program

and other expenses incurred by the employee during an approved period of leave without pay for parental, foster care, medical, or military reasons. Under such circumstances, the employee must use a minimum of ten accrued leave hours per week.

b. Normally the use of accrued leave during a period of leave without pay for parental or medical reasons shall be approved for up to six (6) months, but may be approved for up to one year for the serious health condition of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.

c. The employer contribution to the State insurance program shall continue for the corresponding payroll periods.

(2) An employee's request for the use of accrued leave during a period of leave without pay shall be made at the time of the employee's request for the leave without pay. Such request shall include the amount of accrued leave the employee wishes to use during the approved period of leave without pay. If circumstances arise during the approved leave which cause the employee to reconsider the combination of leave with and without pay, the employee may request approval of revisions to the original approval.