MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, December 28, 2007  
To: Professional Development Committee  
From: Jim Taylor  
RE: Sabbatical and Summer Professional Development Grant Reports

The purpose of this memo is to report on both my spring 2007 sabbatical and summer 2007 summer professional development grant activities. I apologize for being late in submitting these reports. I am combining them because my summer grant work followed my sabbatical without interruption and because my summer grant proposal was to work toward the completion of my sabbatical book project.

Sabbatical Report

My research-related sabbatical accomplishments fall into three main categories: (1) reading to prepare for my writing projects (including the book I proposed), (2) publishing a number of smaller essays (included as attachments to the email to which this memo is also attached), and (3) attending two professional conferences. I will also list some miscellaneous activities.

(1) Books Read


Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).


(2) *Writings Published*


(3) *Conferences Attended*


“Models of God” mini-conference at the 2007 Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in San Francisco, April 4-5 (I commented on Ted Peter’s paper entitled “Models of God.”).

(4) *Miscellaneous Activities*

- Taught one session of David Vander Laan’s Philosophy of Religion class on the topic of divine simplicity in January
- Prepared program review poster for WASC visit in February
- Lunched with Baker Academic editor Bob Hosack in February to discuss my sabbatical book project
- Hosted a philosophy department colloquium in March to discuss my miracles essay
- Hosted the Armington Residence Hall staff (RD and RAs) for dinner in March
- Visited the SF Urban Program in March (lunched with Scott McClelland & Karen Andrews and heard Westmont alum Jallen Rix talk about his experience as a gay Christian at Westmont)
- Met with Telford Work and Josh Nunziato in April to discuss Josh’s major honors proposal
- Prayed for the graduating Westmont seniors at the Senior Celebration in April
- Participated in the philosophy department senior breakfast
- Participated in the Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies
- Dined or met with 16 students or alums throughout the spring semester (lunched on a regular basis with one student and one alum who were having faith struggles)
- Participated with the philosophy department in hiring Kevin Sharpe to replace David Vander Laan during his sabbatical
- Participated with the philosophy department in placing book orders for the library
- Taught Christian Apologetics during Mayterm
- Engaged in daily devotions, regular physical exercise, and daily dinner preparation

Summer Professional Development Grant Report

My research-related summer professional development grant activities fall into two main categories: (1) reading to prepare for writing my proposed book and (2) writing five chapters of my proposed book. I have also included a list of some miscellaneous activities.
(1) Books Read


(2) Writing Accomplished

I wrote the introduction for and five chapters of my book project entitled *Contextualizing the Apologetics Debate*. The first three chapters comprise the first part of the book, which is entitled *The Contemporary Debate about Apologetics*. The chapters are “Classical Apologetics” (Chapter One), “Reformed Epistemology Apologetics” (Chapter Two), and “Approaches Rejecting Philosophical and Historical Arguments” (Chapter Three). The second part of the book is entitled *The Biblical Context for Apologetics*. I wrote two of the three chapters in this part: “Christian Apologetics in the New Testament” (Chapter Four) and “Paul and Philosophical Apologetics” (Chapter Five). I began work on Chapter Six (“Paul and Doubts about Philosophical Apologetics”) shortly before the fall semester started. I wrote a total of 18,715 words on this book project. This material is contained in a file attached to the email to which this memo is also attached.

(3) Miscellaneous Activities

- Hosted the philosophy department for dinner at our house
- During the spring and summer, met with between 20 and 30 Westmont faculty and staff members for meals and meetings
- Read a number of novels, devotional works, and cookbooks throughout the spring and summer