

**Minutes - Dean's Council**  
**April 13, 2018**

1. Discussion of Course-Release for the next two years.

Principle: *Credit* for work that is credit-bearing for students. Credit can accumulate for less stable credit-bearing events like honors theses, directed research, etc. But course *releases* for service/committees/administration/chairing departments etc..

Principle that this course release/credit should only cut the 11th (extra) course, and not more.

Adding course release could increase committee service commitments. How do we judge certain service in comparison to others? How does COF assess committee work and should it take course release into account? Does that change when we have a course release? Argument that workload not only factor that COF should consider: leadership role in community etc.

Dean's Council workload: if there was a release, it would allow an increase in workload. Current workload would not necessarily justify the release.

Question of New York Semesters. How and when do they merit more credit?  
Question about CBL classes.

Just count credit generation, and we can then adjust trigger point: e.g. 40, 60, 80 credits, depending on needs of university. Possibility of including a certain amount as part of on-load teaching.

- a. Honors theses, dissertations.
- b. Student research for credit.
- c. Independent studies, and other things that bear credit.

Possibility of course release for research.  
What about management of adjuncts? Extra burden.

2. Question about process.

Temporality of release vs. workload. Directed research. Can one predict in advance? Allow us to adjust workload. Faculty who know that they are doing many theses/dissertation etc., can in discussion with their chair put off extra course until Spring 2020.

Question about the differential effect of courses. But difficult and contentious question: can we deal with that now?

How to deal with specific cases that don't fit into rules? Opportunities, unusual burdens. In part this needs to be worked out with departments. Unexpected changes. Possibility of

Dean's discretion in a very limited number of exceptional cases, beyond system put in place.

3. Next step - can we distill these notes to principles that we can use for the next two years, and perhaps, also beyond/in addition to the next two years, in preparation for this discussion at Dean's Council on 4/18. Might be useful to also look at existing regs and what course releases are already there, as well as the Skidmore document as offering one possible set of guiding principles/framework. Need to consider the issue of chairing departments and research/scholarship in addition.

Two principles: credit for credit-bearing courses, which accumulates, which is different than course-release; for next two years, any course release would only apply to the 11th course, not to courses beyond that.