

To: Dean Thaine Stearns  
CC: Christine Renaudin  
From: Suzanne Toczyski  
RE: Report on Difference in Pay Leave, Fall 2016

As demonstrated by the work described below, I believe I have fulfilled the conditions of my difference in pay leave in Fall 2016.

The great majority of my time was spent on continued research and writing focused on representations of women in the *Traité de l'amour de Dieu* written by the early seventeenth-century author and saint, François de Sales, as follows:

- In late May and early June, I read François de Sales *Introduction à la vie dévote* in order to have further context for understanding his treatise.
- From June to mid-July, I re-read the lengthy *Traité* (some 738 pages), taking copious notes on all references to women in the treatise (women of the Old Testament, women of the New Testament, the Shulamite of the Song of Songs, Lady Wisdom, female saints, queens & princesses, female readers of the treatise, and all manner of demographics including daughters, wives, mothers, young ladies, nursemaids, and widows).
- During this time period, I also did extensive research on representations of biblical women in the medieval and early modern periods.
- During the month of August, I completed an article on representations of the women of the Old Testament in the treatise, and continued my research into the biblical women of the New Testament. By late August, I had begun writing an article on the latter.
- During the month of September, I completed the article on representations of women of the New Testament, and began research on de Sales' use of the Virgin Mary in the treatise, as well as his extensive use of the Shulamite in the Song of Songs, a biblical topic worthy of a lengthy article in and of itself.
- In October, I traveled to Annecy, France, formerly a city of the Duchy of Savoy and home and seat of François de Sales (who was Bishop of Geneva during the Counter-Reformation, during which time he was banned from that city, which was a Protestant stronghold). I also traveled to Padua and Venice, where François de Sales was a student, and to Florence.
- In mid-October, I attended the Salesian Scholars Seminar in Stella Niagara, New York, at which I presented all of my work on female figures of both the Old and Testament in the treatise; although these were two lengthy pieces of writing, the conference organizers were anxious to have time to talk about both of them.
- In November, I revised these two articles according to the recommendations of the Seminar participants. I submitted them for publication, the first by invitation, to be published in a Festschrift for Alexander Pocetto (of De Sales University in Pennsylvania), the other to *Journal of Salesian Studies*, where it is also slated for publication later this spring.
- In December, I also continued research on the Song of Songs and its use in the *Traité*. I now have ample material for an article I plan to write this summer in preparation for the SE17 conference in Oakland in October, and for the next Salesian Seminar in October 2018.

In addition to all of the above, my leave included the following:

- In June, I spent 8 working days volunteering to do language advising for French, German and Spanish at all summer orientations for freshmen; this is an invaluable service to my department, as it means fewer students misplaced in classes that are not appropriate to their level;
- In mid-July I traveled home for a long weekend to Buffalo, New York, during which time, unfortunately, my father passed away; that extended my stay for an additional week.
- In late July & early August, I read several articles by and wrote a lengthy evaluation of a candidate for promotion to full professor at a state university in Oregon.
- In September, I also became a member of the editorial board of NASSCFL, the North American Society on Seventeenth-Century French Literature, and subsequently reviewed several articles for publication through that entity.
- In November, I reviewed extensively the ABD proposal (some 50 pp) of former SSU student Autumn Vowles who is currently writing her doctoral dissertation at Johns Hopkins University on early modern literature (specifically, the nexus between libertine texts and the autobiographies of female mystics).
- Throughout the semester, and in the spirit of St. François de Sales, I increased my own social justice work. I was a regular participant in the Tuesday Hot Lunch Program of Southern Marin County (9am to noon), helping to prepare and serve food to the needy of the region. In addition, I contribute weekly vegetable dishes to this program, prepared in advance, at home. Finally, in order to streamline some of the Program's operations, I established an on-going calendar of off-site volunteers (who also prepare vegetable dishes, each once every two months), greatly facilitating the work of the entire body.
- Throughout the semester, I also read extensively, including several new books I was considering for my spring 2017 class on Paris (Proust, Modiano, Sebbar and others), as well as more peripheral reading about late 16th and early 17th-century France, François de Sales, etc.
- In December and January, I substantially revised the syllabi of my three spring courses, changing readings, revising writing assignments, etc.
- In terms of physical health, I did all of the above while working at a treadmill desk, racking up the miles (over 150 in November alone) as I read and wrote.
- I also spent considerable time (and continue to spend time) getting fitted for a hearing aid, subsequent to sudden hearing loss a few years ago. This may sound trivial, but I hope it will significantly improve my teaching circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Toczyski