

3.0 BENEFITS, FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

NOTE: In many cases, policies governing the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University differ from policies governing Cornell's Ithaca campus. Faculty at the Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences should consult with the Office of the Provost for Medical Affairs for the relevant policies.

3.1 BENEFITS

The procedures and benefits programs for academic employees in the endowed and contract units are not always identical, since some of the programs offered to contract unit employees are controlled by the state of New York and are tied in part to benefits programs of state agencies not related to Cornell.

In this section, abbreviated summaries are given of most of the benefits programs and regulatory procedures applicable to academic employees in active service. Summaries of retirement procedures and benefits are given in section 4.0. For more detailed and current information, academic employees should consult the appropriate offices.

While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of these summaries, they are not legal documents, and the policies that follow are not conditions of employment and are subject to change. The language is not intended to create a contract between Cornell University and any of its employees, whether endowed or contract, or to create any financial obligation on the state of New York.

Educational

Cornell Children's Tuition Scholarship Plan (CCTS). Scholarships are provided for the children of eligible employees. Eligibility and benefit levels vary with an employee's date of hire. If an employee terminates active regular employment and then returns, benefits will be based upon the plan provisions in effect on the more recent date of hire. Generally, there is a four-year wait in a full-time position until benefits under this program can be accessed. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Employee Degree Program. A nonprofessorial academic staff member who has no voting status on any college, university, or graduate faculty may be considered for acceptance into the Employee Degree Program after one year of regular full-time employment. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Employee Tuition Aid. After one year of employment and with prior approval, nonprofessorial academic staff who have no voting status on any college, university, or graduate faculty may take job-related courses at other institutions. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Extramural Program. Nonprofessorial academic staff who have no voting status on any college, university or graduate faculty may enroll in Cornell academic courses to help

improve their job performance and assist in their careers and personal development. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Training Programs. A calendar of workshops and seminars is published four times a year and offers employees an opportunity to participate in training programs in management, human relations, and technical and communication skills. (Training and Organizational Development, Office of Human Resources)

Holidays, Vacation and Recesses

Please refer to <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html> for relevant policies.

University Holidays. The university observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day following Thanksgiving Day; in addition, five winter holidays near the end of December are designated by the university on an annual basis.

Due to the structure of the academic calendar, Labor Day is not a holiday for academic employees.

Vacation. Only those academics appointed for a full 12-month period who work at least 50 percent-time are eligible to accrue vacation at the rate of two days per month, up to a total of twenty-two days. Vacation may accumulate up to a maximum of thirty days or, with the prior approval of the dean, forty-four days. These days may be scheduled in any way that does not interfere with proper performance of academic-year duties. Department offices are to be informed at all times of faculty absences during periods of duty and are to maintain records of such absences.

Postdoctoral associates accrue vacation time at a rate of fifteen days a year. At the discretion of the supervising professor and the chairperson of the academic unit, a postdoctoral associate may be awarded additional vacation, up to a total of twenty-two days a year.

Accrued vacation must be taken before the termination date of the appointment. Vacation cannot extend salary payments beyond the termination of appointment.

Faculty members on nine-month (academic-year) appointments do not accrue vacation.

Recesses. Each year, classes are cancelled on a Monday and Tuesday in October to provide a short recess during the long period between registration and Thanksgiving. This is followed by intersession, a longer recess between the end of the fall term and registration for the spring term. The spring break is a weeklong recess around the middle of the spring term. These recesses are not vacation periods for academic employees and graduate assistants, all of whom are on duty, even though classes do not meet. Faculty members are expected to report grades promptly, work with graduate students, and carry out other administrative and scholarly pursuits during these periods.

Those on twelve-month appointments who want to be absent for personal reasons during the intersession may assign part of their annual vacation to that period or request a leave of absence. Those on nine-month appointments may request a leave of absence.

Illness or Disability

There is no formal accrual of sick leave for academics. In the contract units, however, sick leave credit is assumed to accrue only to substantiate an official record for receipt of a post-retirement benefit. In instances of brief illness or disability (less than one month), academic employees should promptly inform department chairpersons. Salary is continued and the department absorbs responsibility for the continuation of services.

Short-Term Medical Leave. The employee is placed on short-term medical leave retroactive to the first day of absence when illness prevents performance of academic duties for more than one month. Leave for pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions commence on the date recommended by the employee's attending health-care provider.

Salary continuation may be provided for up to six months or to the end of an employee's appointment, whichever comes first, for illnesses that are not work-related. There is no change in the percent of salary paid or in the source of funds for salary continuation. There is no central pool for salary relief. Details may be found in the online policy <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Long-Term Disability. Employees who are unable to work due to total disability may be approved for income replacement of 60 percent of budgeted monthly salary up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month (combined with Workers' Compensation, Social Security, and other group disability plans). Benefits for an employee who becomes disabled prior to age sixty begin after six months of continuous total disability and continue until the employee is no longer disabled, or at age sixty-five. If disability occurs to an employee beyond age sixty, benefits will be payable based upon the age at which total disability commenced. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Coverage for employees in the contract units depends on the retirement plan in which the academic employee participates. The New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) provides a disability benefit for persons who have at least 10 years of service. The actual benefit is a disability-retirement with payment for life. The younger the person is when disabled and the fewer years of service the person has, the lower the income benefit. During the first 10 years of service, NYSERS participants are covered by the university's Long-Term Disability (LTD) plan that provides a benefit of 60% of pre-disability income. The university encourages NYSERS participants to retain the LTD plan beyond ten years of service for adequate protection.

Participants in the SUNY-ORP retirement system do not have a disability benefit from their retirement plan. Thus SUNY-ORP participants join the university's LTD plan upon employment and retain that coverage as their sole protection against the risk of loss of income during a period of disability. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Workers' Compensation. Both income protection and medical benefits are provided for job-related illnesses or injuries. Supervisors, department chairpersons, or directors should be notified immediately of any job-related injury or illness. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

When the responsibilities of an employee on disability must be continued, other members of the academic staff normally absorb them.

Insurance Coverage

Personal Accident Insurance (PAI). Employees may voluntarily purchase individual or family coverage for accidental death, dismemberment, or permanent and total disability. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Automobile, Homeowner, and Personal Liability Insurance. These insurance products may be purchased through a plan administered by Marsh @ Work Solutions. Employees should contact the local Ithaca office for information and enrollment. Premiums are paid through payroll deduction.

Group Long Term Care Insurance. This insurance protects against the financial pressures of the costs of long term custodial care in a nursing facility or at home. Employees may purchase this insurance for themselves, their spouse, and other family members. Contact Benefit Services for enrollment information.

Health Coverage:

Employees in the Endowed Units. The university offers three plans: a traditional indemnity program (Aetna 80/20); a preferred provider plan (Aetna PPO); and a point of service plan (HealthNow NY POS). The University assumes most of the premium in all three plans and the member contribution comes from the paycheck on a pre-tax basis. Coverage begins upon employment, provided the employee is actively at work and enrolls within sixty days of his or her employment date. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Employees in the Contract Units. New York State offers a preferred provider plan (Empire Plan) and in most areas of the state HMO coverage is available. Cornell's employees in the contract units have access to these benefits and the employee share of the cost is payroll-deducted before taxes. Employees hired after October 26, 1988 are subject to a waiting period of forty-two days before coverage is effective. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Dental Coverage:

Employees in the Endowed Units. This is a voluntary plan with no employer contribution. Two plans of coverage assist the participant in paying dental expenses through an insurance arrangement. Benefits are maximized when participants use the available in-network dental practices. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Employees in the Contract Units. Coverage is provided through Group Health Incorporated (GHI) by New York State at no cost to the employee and becomes effective on the first of the month following six full months of service. Benefits are paid according to a schedule of allowable charges subject to an annual deductible. Selecting an in-network dental practice (where available) yields the best financial result. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

COBRA (Health care continuation coverage). Certain events may cause a termination of health care coverage for employees or their dependents. In such instances, federal law mandates employers to offer continuation coverage for participants. The health plans in the endowed and contract units are subject to these provisions and offer so-called COBRA coverage. Some of the events that qualify for COBRA coverage include termination of employment, reduction in hours below eligibility, divorce, children aging out of the plans, and some other events. Please direct questions to Benefit Services in the Office of Human Resources.

Life Insurance:

Employees in the Endowed Units. The university provides Basic Life Insurance coverage equal to one-half of budgeted annual salary up to a maximum benefit of \$50,000. Employees may purchase supplemental coverage through a plan called Group Universal Life Insurance (GUL) that offers life insurance amounts in multiples of salary from 1 to 10, limited to \$1.5 million. Higher multiples or off-cycle requests for increases in insurance amounts may be subject to medical evaluation. Dependent life insurance coverage is available through the GUL plan. The plan is portable for anyone leaving the university or dependents who want to maintain their coverage through direct billing. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Employees in the Contract Units. Basic Life Insurance coverage is the same as that provided for endowed employees, except that basic coverage is reduced by the amount of any death benefits payable under the Survivor's Benefit Program (NYS Department of Civil Service), New York State Employees' Retirement System, and Federal Civil Service Retirement System. In other words, the employee is covered by the Cornell plan unless the retirement system plan pays more. (Benefit Services, Office of Human Resources)

Select Benefits:

Employees may voluntarily convert a portion of their salaries to a pre-tax reimbursement account to pay for certain medical and dependent-care expenses. This is a permanent tax break and employees never have to pay FICA, federal or state income taxes on the amounts the employee chooses each year to put into a reimbursement account with Select Benefits.

Choices under the plan currently include:

Medical Care Reimbursement Account Option—for the payment of medical, dental, vision, and hearing expenses that are not covered under a health care or dental plan, as well as for those expenses which may not be reimbursed in full.

Dependent-Care Reimbursement Account Option—for payment of eligible dependent-care expenses for a child under age thirteen, or a dependent adult living in your home, who needs day care services.

Child Care Grant. Cornell recognizes that the cost of quality child care can be a substantial burden to employees. In order to ease that burden, the university has committed to helping employees keep their children in quality care by subsidizing its cost through the Cornell University Child Care Grant. Grants will be awarded by a Cornell selection committee and administered by the Day Care Council of Tompkins County. See http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/ohr/diversity/div_ccgrant.html for further information.

Social Security. Social Security is a federal program of retirement and related benefits covering most employees. The university and most people on payroll share contributions to Social Security. In addition to retirement benefits, Social Security provides income for total permanent disability, lump-sum payments at death, and monthly income for eligible dependents and survivors. (Social Security Administration)

Travel Insurance. In general, when traveling on official university business an individual is covered by the university's business travel insurance policies. This policy will provide a benefit of up to \$250,000 to the employee's beneficiary. It is essential that evidence be presented that the travel in question was, in fact, university business and that evidence must exist on the university's record. A special form is available for this purpose which should be filed with departmental personnel or units may set up their own system to keep track of this information. In either case, it is the employee's responsibility to make sure proper documentation is on file with their department. Additional information on this policy is available from the Department of Risk Management and Insurance. See section 6.0 for Travel Policies.

Retirement Plans

Retirement plans and benefits for the university's academic employees in the endowed and contract units are not identical. Call the Benefits office with any questions about a specific retirement plan.

The university sponsors a Pre-retirement Planning Seminar in the fall and the spring for persons over age 55. Call Benefit Services to take advantage of this full-day program led by financial planning experts from the accounting firm of Ernst & Young. The employee is encouraged to bring a guest and the program is free.

A program of phased retirement is available to tenured professors under certain circumstances (see section 4.1 on Retirement).

Younger faculty should take advantage of the special seminars that Benefit Services produce in conjunction with TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments at various times of the year and by special arrangement for departmental groups.

Employees in the Endowed Units. The university contributes an amount equal to ten percent of base salary to individual accounts established through the Cornell University Retirement Plan (CURP). TIAA-CREF and/or Fidelity Investments serve the plan as custodians of the accounts and investment managers. Employees have the responsibility to designate the percentage of the current contributions to be invested in the various funds offered by TIAA-CREF or Fidelity, as well as monitoring the investment allocation over time to yield satisfactory income-generating potential in retirement.

Employees in the Contract Units. The New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) provides retirement, death, and disability benefits to employees of the contract units at Cornell. Retirement benefits are based upon the length of time an individual spends as a NYSERS member, the age at retirement and the level of career compensation.

NYSERS membership is optional for many (FLSA) exempt employees, who have the State University of New York Optional Retirement Plan (SUNY-ORP) program as a further option. SUNY-ORP creates individual accounts for employer contributions through TIAA-CREF. ORP participants may transfer accumulated funds from CREF to alternative funding vehicles operated by Aetna Investments, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, or the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC). Employees have the responsibility to designate the percentage of the current contributions to be invested in the various funds offered by TIAA-CREF or the alternative vendors, as well as monitoring the investment allocation over time to yield satisfactory income-generating potential in retirement.

Tax Deferred Annuity (TDA) Plan. Faculty and staff should use this plan to set aside additional contributions from their paychecks toward retirement income security, or risk a significant shortfall in income-producing potential. Contributions may be invested in the funds sponsored by TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments. Here too, the participant bears the responsibility to allocate current contributions among available funds and to monitor the growth over time to achieve retirement income goals.

For further information on retirement and applicable benefits, see section 4.1.

Miscellaneous

Car Use Allowance. University departments may reimburse employees for use of their personal vehicles while performing university business. Endowed employees needing information about such reimbursement should contact the Supervisor of Voucher Audit; employees in the contract units, their department heads.

Diners Club. The university has an agreement with Citicorp Diners Club and American Express, under which Corporate Cards are issued to all eligible employees for charging expenses incurred in connection with university business. Questions regarding either the agreement or the cards themselves should be directed to the Supervisor of Voucher Audit.

Direct Deposit of Salary. Direct deposit eliminates the need to cash paychecks, especially when there is bad weather or vacation. A number of financial institutions accept automatic direct deposit of the salary check of Cornell employees. Employees are not limited to a single bank or banks in the Ithaca area. All employees, including student employees are encouraged to participate. Direct-deposit authorization forms are available from the Payroll Office or at www.univco.cornell.edu/Payroll/DD.html.

There are additional benefits for direct deposit customers, depending on the financial institution such as no minimum balance requirements, reduced VISA fees, and waived checking account fees. Employees are urged to contact their bank directly to determine what specific benefits are available.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counseling service available to all Cornell employees and their family members. The Cornell EAP is an assessment and referral service, whose goal is to help employees and their families find help for work-related concerns, family issues and other stressful problems that affect the workplace.

Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc. runs an EAP program for Geneva-based employees.

Unemployment Insurance. Employees who become unemployed through no fault of their own, and are both able to work and available but are unsuccessful in finding employment, may be eligible to receive a weekly benefit.

Employees are not, however, considered eligible to receive unemployment benefits for the summer period if they were employed during the spring term and have a reasonable assurance of an appointment with Cornell or another college in the fall. Faculty members are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits while on sabbatic leave. (Office of Human Resources)

3.2 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Sabbatic Leave

When faculty members have been employed by the university continuously for at least twelve semesters, excluding summers, and have held one or more of the titles of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor, and have been elected to tenure, the dean may grant them sabbatic leaves of absence for one year at half pay or one term at full pay, for the primary purpose of increasing the value of their further services to the university. For complete policy, please consult the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Application for Leave. The sabbatic leave must be requested in writing before the start of the term preceding that during which the leave of absence is desired. Application is made to the appropriate dean through the department chairperson, who communicates it to the dean along with (a) his or her recommendation concerning approval, and (b)

the department plan for meeting the faculty member's regular obligations during the leave.

A statement of planned work or studies should accompany the application while on sabbatic leave that are expected to benefit the university's academic program. Documentation of such plans may be required for approval of the leave and also for justifying, for income tax purposes, expenses incurred in connection with it.

Postponement of Leave. If a faculty member consents to postponement of a sabbatic leave for the convenience of a department or if a postponement is requested by the faculty member for personal reasons, the dean may approve the accrual of credit up to a maximum of three terms toward eligibility for the next leave. Study leave (described below) may be counted as accrued time for sabbatic leave. Assistant professors in their sixth year of service who are being reviewed for tenure may request postponement of the leave. Such a request for postponement for one term or one year is automatically credited toward the subsequent sabbatical.

Benefits during Leave. For those who take a one-term sabbatic leave at full salary, there is no change in benefits. For those who take a full year at half salary, the following applies: medical coverage, eligibility for Cornell Children's Tuition Scholarship benefits, life insurance coverage, and accident insurance coverage remain the same. For faculty members in the endowed units, the Cornell contribution to TIAA-CREF and/or Fidelity retirement annuity plans remains at the equivalent of full salary. For faculty members in the contract units who are enrolled in the TIAA-CREF or Fidelity Optional Retirement Program, the university's contribution is halved, as is the salary, during sabbatic leave. For faculty members in the contract units who are enrolled in the New York State Employees' Retirement System, the state's contribution is unchanged during the year's sabbatical at half salary.

In the prorating of sabbatical leave, the salary to be paid is prorated, but the time for eligibility is not. For example, endowed faculty on full-time appointments are eligible for sabbatical leave after six years of service and are paid a full six-months' salary for a six-month leave or the salary is distributed over the year for a one-year sabbatical leave. Similarly, faculty on half-time appointments are eligible for sabbatical leave after six years of half-time service and are paid a half-time six-months' salary (i.e. at one-half the rate paid for six months' service in a full-time appointment) for either a six-month sabbatical leave or distributed over the year for a one-year sabbatical leave. Nine-month faculty in the contract units who take a one-semester sabbatical only receive their regular salary during the four-and-one-half-month semester.

Post-sabbatic Service Requirement: A faculty member who is awarded a sabbatic leave has an obligation either to return to Cornell for at least a year after the leave or to return the salary and benefits paid by Cornell during the leave. This requirement is not prorated and, because it is designed to reap the benefit of the sabbatic activities to the Cornell academic program, the requirement may not be served in advance. With the dean's approval, the requirement may be served post-retirement.

A member of the faculty on sabbatic leave may serve on faculty committees, vote at faculty meetings, and make normal use of library and laboratory facilities. In addition

to the salary received from Cornell, he or she may receive remuneration from other sources while on sabbatic leave, but the leave is not granted for the purpose of augmenting income. Please consult the online policy for information about combining sabbatics with administrative leave or leave without salary; prior-service credits; postponement during administrative service; early sabbatics; local sabbatics; and synchronization of schedules for dual-career couples.

3.3 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The university may allow professors and academic staff to take leave from appointed responsibilities under certain circumstances, including arrangements that support balance between family life and university responsibilities. Cornell policy promotes academic leave management, which is a collegial approach intended to foster, within appropriate limits, situations of mutual benefit to the academic employee and the university's academic program. Please reference the Leaves for Professors and Academic Staff policy available on the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

In general, a leave of absence is a planned period of relief from normal duties. In all leaves of absence, with or without salary, the stability of the academic program takes precedence over the advantages to the individual. Please reference the Leaves for Professors and Academic Staff policy available on the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html> for further information.

When an academic employee travels for Cornell University, attends a professional meeting, presents a seminar at another institution, consults as permitted for professors, or engages in a Cornell academic program off-campus, a leave of absence is not required. If an employee travels for personal reasons or for recreation for a period that would interfere with normal duties, a leave of absence should be requested. An academic employee who is planning an extended leave of absence—for example, by applying for external support such as a fellowship—should obtain the prior approval of the department chairperson, and additional approvals as may be necessary.

Authority for approving a leave of absence varies with the situation. The department chair may approve in writing two weeks or less of leave. Leaves of more than two weeks and as long as one year, with or without salary, can be granted by the dean. Leaves or leave combinations that exceed one year require the further approval of the provost.

While academic leaves may be used to accommodate professors who take temporary positions elsewhere, such leaves are not normally appropriate for individuals who accept tenured appointments at other institutions. A decision by the dean to grant academic leave in such circumstances requires compelling justification, and the leave should not, in any event, exceed one year from the date the Cornell faculty member assumes a tenured appointment at another institution.

As a condition of leave approval, academic management may specify a date for formal notification of intention to return to the university. Such a consideration may pertain

when an academic employee is considering an external offer and a notification timeframe is necessary for academic planning.

Study Leave

Variations exist among colleges regarding study leave and each college that offers study leaves should have a statement of policy approved by the provost. A professor interested in taking a study leave should consult the department chair's office.

Upon recommendation from the appropriate academic dean or director, the dean may relieve an assistant, associate or full professor of teaching duties for one full term so that the professor may pursue uninterrupted study and/or research. A study leave is for one semester at full salary and may not normally come within two years of another kind of leave. Study leave may never be combined with a sabbatical leave, and only one study leave may be taken between sabbatical leaves. To be eligible, the professor must have carried an unusually heavy teaching load for at least six consecutive terms and be judged to have had opportunities for scholarly development thereby impaired.

Normally the study leave is taken during the term that immediately follows three years of uninterrupted teaching. Requested at least one term in advance, it is for one term only and cannot be combined with other leaves or taken in the final term of university service.

A faculty member must submit a specific plan of study and/or research with the application for a study leave. The plan must provide for meeting the teaching responsibilities during the leave period without requiring additional staff appointments—perhaps by the faculty member's increasing his or her teaching load just before or after the leave. The period of leave must be used for study or personal research and not for outside consulting or other nonuniversity endeavors.

Please reference the Leaves for Professors and Academic Staff policy available on the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Prestigious Fellowship Leave

The university continues to provide the university share of contributions toward certain benefits for eligible professorial staff in the endowed colleges who go on leave without salary for up to one year as recipient of one of the highly competitive prestigious fellowships named in an approved list. Details may be found on the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Leave

The 1970 Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), legislated for the mutual benefit of institutions of higher education and federal agencies, allows an academic employee to be placed on leave with salary to accept a temporary governmental position at a federal agency's invitation. The federal government reimburses the university for the costs of salary and benefits. Details may be found on the online policy library at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Military Training Leave

Academics who are members of any United States Armed Forces reserve unit are granted paid leaves for purposes of annual training exercises or if called to active duty. The duration and benefits change to comply with changes in regulatory guidelines. Following the paid leave, a military leave without salary may be granted. Current regulations are reflected in the Human Resources online policy at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/TAW.for.html>. Academic policy, which refers to the Human Resources policy, may be found online at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Cornell Academic Parental Leave

Cornell academic parental leave provides up to one semester of partial relief with full salary for the primary care-giving parent in an eligible Cornell academic appointment as determined through college policy. The primary care-giving parent is one who has primary responsibility for the care of a child and is either a single parent or one whose partner is unable to serve as primary caregiver due to employment or medical condition. If the child is adopted or placed for foster care, the child must be younger than five years old for the parent to qualify. Details about college policy may be obtained from the office of the department chair or the dean. General aspects of policy and examples of leave options in family care or self-care situations are available in the online policy at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

For a parent of a newborn or during an adopted or foster child's first year in the household, when duties as primary care-giving parent call tenure-track faculty members away from their work, the university will provide, on request, automatic extension of the tenure clock for up to one semester. Similarly, in situations beyond those of primary care-giving parent where parenting duties interfere substantially with progress in the academic program, tenure-clock extensions may be requested through the department chair for approval by the dean and the provost. Those participating in the tenure review process are directed not to allow the professor's use of Cornell academic parental leave or family-related tenure-clock extensions to be a negative element or to have a negative influence in the evaluation of any candidate for tenure.

Family and Medical Leave (F&ML)

The federal mandate for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act is for unpaid leave (unless other paid leave is substituted) for a family or personal situation that qualifies. Cornell offers paid leave, such as Cornell academic parental leave, short-term medical leave, and long-term disability, that makes it possible to take advantage of F&ML's protections without necessarily losing salary. Details may be found in the online policy at <http://www.univco.cornell.edu/policy/LPAS.html>.

Other Leaves of Absence

Leaves of absence without salary do not extend the period of a term appointment, but leaves with salary may be counted as time accrued for sabbatic leaves. Whether the leave time is counted as part of the six years within which a tenure decision on an assistant professor must be made is to be defined by an explicit written understanding between the chairperson and faculty member, approved and signed by the dean, and filed with the Academic Personnel Policy Office.

During leaves without salary, eligibility for Cornell Children's Tuition Scholarship benefits continues for only one semester. The employee may continue life, accident, and health insurance coverage by paying premiums (both the employee's and employer's share) to the Office of Human Resources, with the exception of employees in the contract units paying their health insurance to the New York State Department of Civil Service. University contributions to TIAA-CREF or Fidelity retirement plans cease. The employee continues to have the opportunity to make his or her own contributions, but those contributions will not be tax-deferred. If the employee returns at the end of an approved leave without salary, the academic unit is obliged to restore his or her original post if the term of appointment has not expired, unless a different arrangement was agreed upon before the leave. The academic unit is not obliged to pay the salary of an employee who returns before the expiration of the approved leave.

