FINAL SABBATICAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To be completed by faculty members and submitted to the vice president for academic affairs.

Name and Title of Faculty Member: Dr. David J. Plante, Professor of Economics

Period of Leave: Fall 2010

Attach final sabbatical report for review by the trustees as required in Section 3.07 of the *Handbook for Professional Personnel* and §23-5-123 C.R.S. and as agreed to in the faculty member's sabbatical application.

	April 29, 2011
Signature of Sabbatical Recipient	Date

TO: Dr. Jay Helman, Dr. John Sowell, and the Board of Trustees
RE: Sabbatical Report

I wish to thank Dr. Jay Helman, Dr. John Sowell, and the Board of Trustees for granting the sabbatical leave that enabled me to successfully complete two chapters of a book on American political economy, each of which in their more academic versions has been presented at conferences and one of which has been submitted for publication, receiving a revise and resubmit.

The first chapter, "The Search for the Meaning of the New Deal," investigates the debate regarding the New Deal regime, both in the 1930s and during the Great Recession, and addresses the labor, legal, and financial institutions that dominated from the 1930s to the 1970s. A version of this paper was presented at the American Political Science Association meetings in Washington, D.C., in September. The paper was well-received and also generated useful feedback for revision. In fact, for several weeks it was in the top ten downloads in its category of the Social Science Research Network. A revised version of this paper, re-titled as "The Great Recession and the Meaning of the New Deal," was submitted for publication with *New Political Science*, and has received a revise and resubmit. I, along with my co-author, plan on making these minor revisions in the next few weeks.

The second chapter, "The Great Recession and the Future of America Liberalism," which will serve as a conclusion, analyzes and categorizes a broad cross-section of theories that have been put forth trying to explain the origins and significance of the Great Recession and the Global Financial Crisis and offers our own take on how students should approach a contemporary event using an historical methodology. This chapter was presented to the Association for Institutional Thought (economics) section of the Western Social Science Association meetings in Salt Lake City, UT, in April. A revised version of this paper will be submitted for publication as well.

The time to read, research, and write has been invaluable to me in gaining better understanding of recent events and reengaging in scholarly activities. The lessons learned from completing these two chapters have become integral to revisions made in the three classes I taught this semester and one that I will teach in the fall. In fact, I would say that I have had the best experience teaching this semester. While I always work hard at preparing for my classes, the sabbatical has given tremendous boost to my core knowledge of economics and recent events and has allowed me to make sense of massive changes in the field for my students.

I wish to thank my colleagues in BAE, especially in Economics, who assumed my administrative duties in the fall and found ways to cover my courses. Additionally, I would like to thank my chair, Dr. Monica Newman, who encouraged my request for sabbatical, and FPAC members who offered revisions and recommended my project. Again, I would like to thank Dr. Jay Helman, Dr. John Sowell, and the Board of Trustees who granted my sabbatical. None of this work would have been possible without the uninterrupted time to read, think, write, and improve my courses and my abilities as an economist.