

Question Time

In August 2021, PFW faculty received [an email from the Office of Academic Affairs \(OAA\)](#) stating that due to budgetary constraints, professional development account (PDA) funds will not be available for faculty to use for conferences or related travel unless a faculty submits an appeal that require processing on three levels: (1) the academic unit chair's approval (2) the college dean's review, and (3) the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for a final decision. Under our current extenuating circumstances (pandemic and low-enrollment), it is expected that the university takes such measures.

1. Could there be a more efficient appeals process for faculty to use so as not to go through multiple hoops?
2. Could there be a set of criteria that departments and/or Senate can develop to ensure that the appeals process is fair to all faculty who apply for funding?
3. As the pandemic enters its third year and since there are no tangible indications of financial growth, what plans are there for reinstating funds toward scholarly activity/events to foster professional development for faculty?
4. What assurances could you give faculty that current PDA conditions and processes will not be the norm moving forward?

A. Nasr