The teaching faculty has an important responsibility to make themselves available to meet with students outside of class time. The faculty recognizes this as a crucial part of the teaching/learning process. The CBA indicates that for the fall and spring semesters “teaching faculty members shall maintain a minimum of five (5) office hours per week on no fewer than three (3) different days at times as will accommodate the needs of the students.”

For terms of less than fifteen weeks, it is equally important that teaching faculty provide their students sufficient opportunity to meet and engage in appropriate academic discussions regarding the course requirements, the course content, academic program requirements, or broader intellectual issues. These educational experiences occur in a compressed time frame resulting in a course comprising many characteristics of an immersion experience. Specifically, the students spend more time per day in contact with their instructors and have fewer courses on which to concentrate. Likewise, instructors have far fewer students with which to interact and are engaged with their students for a longer period of time each day than during a fifteen-week semester.

Therefore, recognizing the compressed nature of the winter and summer sessions and the language in the CBA, faculty with teaching assignments during the winter and summer terms will set aside a minimum of three (3) hours per week, outside the instructional class time, to interact with students. At least two (2) of these hours will be posted office hours and held on at least two (2) different days. The overall goal is to ensure that our students have ample opportunity to have their questions answered and their intellectual curiosity satisfied to the best of our abilities.