

## Senate Faculty Teaching and Service Awards Committee

### 2006-2007 Final Report.

Committee Members: Keith J. Stine (Chair), Deborah B. Balser, Anne-Sophie Blank, Kathleen J. Boland, James D. Fay, Bernard Feldman, Rocky Keel, Kathy Lee, Kim Song, Laura Westhoff, Andrew Mulchek (student), Angela Wright (student), Margaret W. Cohen (*ex-officio*)

#### 1. Activities Fall 2006/Winter 2007

During the early part of the fall semester, the committee focused on having the faculty awards web pages linked to the Academic Affairs and Center for Teaching and Learning websites updated to reflect the changes in criteria agreed to by the committee during 2005-2006. The web pages listing past award winners were also reviewed for accuracy and format. The awards criteria were further modified when the committee met to review them in February 2007.

A campus-wide call for nominations for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* and for the *Thomas Jefferson Award* was made in October with a deadline in early January. The call sought nominations for these awards to be reviewed by the committee to select one nomination for each award to be forwarded from the campus.

The committee met in early January and reviewed the nominations received for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching*. The nomination of Professor Fred Wilman, Department of Music, was selected for forwarding from the campus. The committee made recommendations for improving the nomination package and these were communicated to the nominator and nominee with the help of Peggy Cohen. The revised nomination was submitted to the UM System committee for the award. The nomination was successful, and Professor Wilman was informed that he won the 2007 *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching*.

The committee noticed early in the fall that the *Thomas Jefferson Award*, which is presented in alternate years by the UM System, was open for competition for 2007. The committee considered the nominations received and the nomination of Professor Michael Harris, College of Business Administration, was selected for forwarding from the campus. The Committee met together with three volunteers from the Senate Committee on Research to select the nomination for forwarding and to make recommendations for its improvement. The participation of members of the Research Committee was deemed necessary as the criteria for the award are broad and include research. The nomination of Professor Harris was successful and he was informed that he won the 2007 *Thomas Jefferson Award*.

As a part of the self-study report for the 5-year review of the Faculty Senate, the committee prepared the report requested by Senate Chair Tim Farmer. The committee met to consider the content of the report and to recommend a focal area for discussion at the Senate review meeting. The focal area suggested was: *The Committee proposes a focal area concerning how to increase the campus community's awareness of the University Action Plan by publicly recognizing and rewarding faculty teaching and service activities that are consistent with the goals of the plan. The proposed focal area also concerns how to further improve recognition of effective teaching*

*on campus with a focus on promoting increased awareness of issues related to student learning, engagement, and retention as outlined in the UM-St. Louis Action Plan. Since nothing further was heard concerning the submitted reported aside from an acknowledgement, it appears this was not selected as a focal area for the review.*

The committee met in February and reviewed the criteria for the campus teaching and service awards and made a number of changes to improve their wording, consistency and alignment with the UM-St. Louis Action Plan.

A call for nominations for campus awards was made in late February by email announcements to Deans, Department Chairs, Area Coordinators, and Center Directors and then separately to the general faculty. The call for nominations also appeared in *Friday's Update*.

Nominations were received by the deadline of April 27<sup>th</sup> and were considered at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the committee. For the first time, this year nominations were all received electronically along with one original printed copy. The committee selected recommendations for the 2007 winners of the following awards: *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*, *Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award*, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*, and the *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*. A letter reporting the committee recommendations was hand delivered to the Chancellor's Office on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> by the committee chair.

A memo was sent to the Chancellor expressing the strong sentiment of the committee that a *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement* be established. It was proposed that the award be made every other year, and that in alternate years an award for excellence in civic engagement by students and staff be presented. The committee noted the receipt of a proposal for such an award from Professor Charles Granger, Department of Biology, and a former chair of this committee (2003-2005).

## 2. Business to be Carried Over to 2007/2008

Should the proposal for a civic engagement award be approved, the drafting of criteria for such an award would become urgent business. Once the 2007 award winners are announced by the Chancellor, the committee should make sure that the appropriate parts of their nominations are posted electronically on the awards websites and that these websites are updated. The Senate approved a motion from the previous year's committee (2005-2006, Chaired by Vicki Sauter) that warrants repeating: *IT IS MOVED that the nomination packets (without the letters, vita, or course evaluations) of winners of Chancellor's Awards shall become public information after the Awards are given in the fall. The Award packet shall be archived in a manner that allows all members of the Campus Community to view its contents.*

## 3. Recommendations

The Committee should discuss how to encourage the submission of more nominations for campus awards. Further discussion and improvement of awards criteria is recommended.

Developing some suggestions for preparing high-quality nomination packages and making them available for potential nominators and their nominees to consider is another possible topic for discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith J. Stine