

Senate Faculty Teaching and Service Awards

Self-Study Report for Senate and Assembly Five Year Review, 2001-2006

(1) Committee Actions (2002-2006)

The constitution and role of the Committee, as described by the Faculty By-Laws, is:

The Committee shall consist of the following faculty members elected by the Senate: five eligible faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences (no more than two from any one division of the College); one eligible faculty member from each of the following units: Fine Arts & Communication, Business Administration, Education, Nursing & Health Studies, Optometry, and such parallel units as may be created from time to time; and two students. The Committee shall:

(1) Formulate and publish guidelines for campus-wide teaching and service awards;

(2) Solicit nominations for these awards as well as University and external teaching and service awards; and

(3) Recommend candidates to the Chancellor.

Members of the Committee are ineligible to receive awards under the Committee's jurisdiction during the entire period of their service on the Committee.

The actions taken by the Committee are in-line with the above By-Laws. The Committee has revised awards criteria and submission procedures and issued calls for nominations each year. The Committee seeks to publicize the nomination deadline for the UM System *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching*, for which nominations are due in UM-Columbia at the end of January with each campus allowed to submit one nomination. The Committee has become more active in recent years in terms of reviewing the nominations for the President's Award and providing feedback for their improvement prior to their submission. The Committee has reviewed nominations and suggested awardees to the Chancellor for approval. The actions taken, year by year, are summarized below from annual reports of the Committee as provided by the Faculty Senate office.

2001/2002 (Chair: Eric P. Baumer, Criminology and Criminal Justice): According to the Chair's annual report, the committee took steps to revise and clarify the solicitation and selection procedures to include a 'multi-tiered solicitation process in which the nomination materials requested better match the nature of the award.' During this year, the Emerson Award was reclassified, with the approval of the sponsor company, as earmarked for junior faculty. The Committee pursued 'a more aggressive approach to soliciting nominations', the specific nature of which was not noted in the report.

2002/2003 (Chair: Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan, College of Optometry). During this year, the Chair's report notes that the Committee strongly recommended that Professor Margaret E. Cohen, Associate Provost for Professional Development and Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, be made a non-voting member of the Committee since it was felt that input from her or anyone assuming this position was very important for the Committee's deliberations and for providing a liaison to the administration.

2003/2004 (Chair: Charles R. Granger, Department of Biology). During this year, the Committee reviewed and revised the purposes, eligibilities, and nomination procedures for the awards under its jurisdiction, which now has grown to seven awards. The announcements for the awards were made to conform in format and were posted on the UM-St. Louis Academic Affairs website. The Committee reiterated the recommendation that the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning be made an ex-officio member of the Committee. The Faculty Senate approved a motion adding Dr. Cohen as a non-voting member in December 2004. The Committee also took responsibility for the new *Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award*, which is targeted at first or second year tenure track faculty for outstanding teaching.

2004/2005: (Chair: Charles R. Granger, Department of Biology). The Committee primarily dealt with nominations and selections during this year. The Committee recommended that a topic for the following year would be discussing how to increase the breadth and diversity of the nominee pool. It was also recommended that rubrics be developed for assessing nominations.

2005/2006: (Chair: Vicki Sauter, College of Business Administration). The Committee was quite active during this year in terms of making policy and procedure changes and improving the presentation of information about awards. During this year, the Committee brought three specific motions to the Senate for approval. Two of these were passed unanimously without any amendment and read as follows:

(1) IT IS MOVED that the UMSL Senate encourage each department to consider diversity in their nominations of candidates for Curator Teaching Professors.

(2) IT IS MOVED that the UMSL Senate encourage each School and College to create both a teaching and a service award with criteria and standards to recognize better those individuals who excel at teaching and service, respectively.

A third motion was passed with an amendment:

(3) 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.

The original motion (3) did not include the parenthetical statement.

The Committee created an electronic list of the past winners of all campus teaching and service awards, which was reformatted and linked to the Academic Affairs webpage in Fall 2006 and can be found at: <http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/faculty/awards/awards.html>

The Committee modified the criteria for the awards to require inclusion of a personal teaching philosophy statement to be of a specified length and format addressing a list of specific aspects of their teaching philosophy and methods.

The Committee modified the web pages for all of the campus awards; these were further refined and posted during the fall 2006 semester.

The Committee recommended that the disparity of the cash value between the *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-regular* and the Chancellor's awards to regular faculty be reduced. This was subsequently approved and the value of the award increased from \$1000 to \$2500, making the value one-half that of the Chancellor's awards to regular faculty.

The Committee recommended the creation of a new *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement* in order to have an award represent that part of the campus action plan. The recommendation was not approved.

The Committee invested a significant amount of time discussing the concerns over why the nominations from UM-St. Louis for the *President's Award for Excellence in Teaching* have not fared well. The Committee met with UM-St. Louis faculty who have served on the system selection committee for the award and identified three factors believed to be of significance for these nomination packages: (a) the longevity of the nominee on the campus, (b) the value of the nominee having a history of receiving other teaching awards, and (c) the value of having some civic engagement in the packet. The Committee recommended that only Curators Teaching Professors and past winners of the *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching* be considered for forwarding from the campus. The Committee also recommended that in the future once the nomination packet is forwarded, the Committee should meet with the campus representatives to the system selection committee to explain the rationale behind the nomination so they can be well-informed about the case.

2006/2007: (Chair: Keith J. Stine, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry). During the year to date, the Committee has worked on: (a) implementing the improvements to the Awards webpage recommended and initiated during the previous year, and (b) issuing the call for nominations for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* and for the *Thomas Jefferson Award*, another UM System award that has been won by UM-St. Louis faculty in the past. The Committee met to discuss the nominations received for each of these two awards, selected the nomination to be forwarded from the campus, and provided feedback for improvement of the nomination materials. In light of the broader scope of the *Thomas Jefferson Award*, the meeting to discuss the nominations included members of the Senate Committee on Research.

(2) Rationale for Committee Actions (2001 – present)

The recognition of excellence in teaching provided by the awards under the scope of the Committee help to promote a campus atmosphere that values the teaching efforts of faculty. The efforts to improve the quality and prospects of a campus nomination for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* are also aligned with this goal. Efforts to aggregate and post information on all past teaching award winners for viewing on the campus web site also help to promote recognition of teaching excellence. The motion passed in 2005 (motion (2) above) is also aligned with goal of promoting recognition of teaching excellence what we presume improves student learning. In 2001/2002, the reclassification of the Emerson Award to junior faculty members provided an incentive for untenured faculty to focus on excellence in teaching. The addition of the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning as a non-voting member of the Committee on a regular basis provides expert input for deliberations of designing and revising teaching award criteria and in the judging of nominations. The recommendation that information from the nomination packets of award winners be posted on-line is intended to serve as a source of good teaching methods and philosophies to inspire other faculty. The motion passed in the Senate in 2005 (motion (1) above) and the earlier actions to seek diversity in the nominee pool is consistent with the campus mission to promote diversity. The increase in value of the award to a non-regular faculty member from \$1000 to \$2500 served to enhance the recognition of teaching by non-regular faculty. The preliminary discussions of the possibility for a campus award recognizing civic engagement would support this feature of the mission statement if such an award is created in the future.

(3) Committee Focus (2006/2007)

During this year, the Committee has thus far focused on: (a) refinement and posting of the awards criteria, nomination format, and past winners on the Academic Affairs web pages, and (b) solicitation of a nomination to be forwarded from the campus for the UM System *Thomas Jefferson Award*, for which there are past UM-St. Louis winners and for which we should try to compete regularly. Since this award can include aspects of research, teaching, and service, cooperation with the Senate Research Committee in considering and refining a nomination was arranged. The Committee is also attempting to transition to electronic submission of nominations this year.

(4) Focal Area Recommendations

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.

Appendix

Award Recommendations from the Committee

2001/2002

The following awards were recommended by the Committee from the nominations received and the recommendations were approved by the Chancellor:

Professor David Roberston, Political Science, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
Professor David Robertson, Political Science, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*
Professor Janet Lauritsen, Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
Professor Lois Pierce, Social Work, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*

A nomination for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* was selected and forwarded to the UM System. The nomination was not successful.

Dr. Margaret Phillips, Criminology and Criminal Justice, received the *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*, an award established in 1994, which apparently did not come under the jurisdiction of this Committee until 2002/2003.

2002/2003

The following awards were recommended by the Committee from the nominations received and the recommendations were approved by the Chancellor:

Professor Sally Barr Ebest, English, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
Professor Harvey Chiles, Affiliate Teaching and Learning, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*
Professor Helene Sherman, Teaching and Learning, *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
Professor R. Rocco Cottone, Counseling and Family Service, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*
Professor Elizabeth Eckelkamp, Foreign Languages and Literatures, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*

There was no nomination forwarded this year for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching*

2003/2004

The following awards were recommended by the Committee from the nominations received and the recommendations were approved by the Chancellor:

Professor Edward C Lawrence, Finance, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor G. David Curry, Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*

Professor Robert H. Harris, Psychology, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*

Professor Paul W. Paese, Psychology, *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor Alan D. Heisel, Communication, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*

Professor Beth M. Huebner, Criminology and Criminal Justice, *Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award*

A nomination for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* was selected and forwarded to the UM System. The nomination was not successful.

2004/2005

The following awards were recommended by the Committee from the nominations received and the recommendations were approved by the Chancellor:

Professor Ann E. Winkler, Economics and Public Policy Administration, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor Van A. Reidhead, Anthropology, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*

Professor Vinita Henry, Optometry, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*

Professor Elizabeth Vining, Marketing, *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor Gwen Moore, Business Administration, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*

Professor Minsoo Kang, History, *Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award*

A nomination for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* was selected and forwarded to the UM System. The nomination was not successful.

2005/2006

The following awards were recommended by the Committee from the nominations received and the recommendations were approved by the Chancellor:

Professor Jean-Germain Gros, Political Science, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi, Foreign Languages and Literature and Art History, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service*

Professor Wayne Winter, Business Law, *Chancellor's Award for Excellence to an Academic Non-Regular*

Professor Gregory Geisler, Accounting, *Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Professor Jennifer Siciliani, Psychology, *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*

Professor Lea-Rachel Kosnick, Economics, *Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award*

A nomination for the *President's Award for Outstanding Teaching* was forwarded to the UM System. The nomination was not successful.