

ANNUAL REPORT, 1973-74
Oakland University Teaching and Learning Committee

The Oakland University Teaching and Learning Committee has had a relatively successful year grappling with the issues of how to encourage innovation and general development in effective teaching and how to assist in the university-wide enterprise of collecting systematic information on teaching effectiveness. With these general concerns in mind, a number of specific projects were launched.

In cooperation with the Provost's Office and the Office of Research and Instructional Services, the Teaching and Learning Committee participated in submitting a request for funds for development in teaching from the Carnegie Fund. This request is still alive. If the funds are forthcoming, we will have the means to support a wide array of teaching and learning experiments and projects in faculty and staff development in the instructional area.

While the request to Carnegie was pending, the Committee formulated a motion to ask the University Senate to recommend to the President and Board of Trustees that an Educational Development Fund be initiated and that this fund be used to support a number of research and development projects in teaching through small grants and in a way similar to the current Faculty Research Fund at the University. The motion was unanimously approved by the Senate at the April 11 meeting and awaits action by President O'Dowd.

During the year, the Teaching and Learning Committee formulated guidelines for a faculty and staff Travel Grants Project. The concept behind the project is that interested members of the Oakland community might be encouraged to travel to other schools where adoptable instructional developments could be studied for application here. In order to increase the chances of "transplanting" the procedures to Oakland, departmental and college-wide support would be sought and the necessary follow-through resources would be provided to the investigation. This project is still in development.

The Committee is about to launch a university-wide study of the methods used to assess effective teaching at Oakland. We propose to

collect reports from all the teaching units and to consider the need for coordination efforts in this area. We are especially interested in how the information collected on effective teaching by departments is used to reinforce the teaching practices of individual faculty members and how such information is used in tenure and promotion decisions.

Finally, through the expert efforts of Profs. Mike Wozny and Nigel Hampton, the Committee has published T/L Reports in an effort to begin university-wide dissemination of information on teaching developments. We plan to publish Reports four times during the regular academic year and to have additional special editions where special topics warrant. All the members of the Committee appreciate the staff's cooperation in writing for Reports and in sharing their concerns and experiments in teaching with us and with the university community.

Ralph Schillace

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