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Senate Teaching and Learning Committee

Annual Report

2000-2001

I. Membership:

In September, 2000, the membership was as follows:

Awbrey, Susan, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Rob Anderson, English
Jim Hansen, Education Counseling Department
Niels Herold, English
Rob Kushler, Mathematics & Statistics
Tamara Machmut-Jhasi, Art & Art History
Kay Palmer, Research & Assessment
David Sidaway, Business Administration
Ronald L. Somerville, Associate Registrar

II. Budget (further information forthcoming)

Our major expenditures were as follows:

Luncheons:
Newsletter:
Educational Development Grants:
Teaching Excellence Award:

III. Meetings

On October 5 (our first meeting) we agreed to meet monthly during the fall semester, 2000: on October 19, November 16, and December 7, in room 517 Wilson Hall. Winter semester meetings, 2001, were held on February 1, February 15, March 15, and April 5, 517 WH

IV. Assignments and Activities:

The agenda for the October 5 meeting consisted of reviewing the annual tasks of the committee and pairing up members to coordinate each of them. To maintain continuity, returning members to the committee agreed to continue working on the same projects they had during their membership in 1999-2001. At the October 5 meeting we all agreed to work together on the two TLC Luncheons, but at the next meeting (of October 15), we were joined by Kay Palmer and Ron Somerville, who took over organizational and promotional duties for the luncheons.

A. Teaching Excellence Award - J. Hansen, Tamara Machmut-Jhasi

This subgroup was responsible for getting out publicity to solicit nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award. At the October 15 meeting we reviewed the guidelines for the nomination procedure to see if any changes were needed. The subgroup prepared rating sheets for all committee members to use as we reviewed the applications during the winter semester. The entire committee read all applications and through lengthy discussion determined the winner. Members were assigned to make presentations on individual candidates.

The major item on the agenda for October 15 was a discussion of the announcement for nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award. This announcement spells out all the university community knows about award criteria. After a prolonged discussion and consideration of numerous alternative ways to state the criteria upon which the award is made, the following five criteria were accepted.

1. Superior teaching
2. Innovative instructional practices
3. High educational standards
4. Productive learning environment
5. demonstrated ability to inspire and motivate students

There was also substantive discussion about opening the award to part-timers. After much debate about the pros and cons, the committee agreed to accept the Provost's offer to help fund a separate award for part-timers. The committee also agreed to stagger the two awards, so that the first competition for part-timers would be launched in the winter semester 2001, with the committee deliberating about nominations during the fall semester, 2000. On January 18, 2001, Susan Awbrey reported that Provost Esposito had allocated \$2500 for the part-time teaching award, the competition for which would commence the following academic year.

As chair of the TEA subcommittee Jim Hansen modified the dates in the announcement, omitted the word "just" in the independent clause that introduces the criteria, omitted the word "classroom" in the first criterion as worded in the 2000 announcement, and changed the wording of the last criterion to "demonstrated ability to inspire and motivate students." Hansen worked with the subcommittee to get the announcement for nominations as widely distributed as possible, in the Post, the OC, and the Newsletter. The subcommittee reported ed back at the November 16 meeting on all plans it had for soliciting nominations.

Nominations for the 2001 award were entertained for:

Lorenzo Smith (Engineering and Computer Science)
Dorsey Hammond (Reading)
Todd Estes (History)
Jude Nixon (English)
Chaundra Scott (Ed. Human Res. Dev.)
Tamara Machmut-Jhasi (Art History).

As a previous recipient of the award, Hammond withdrew; as an Instructor, Scott was disqualified; as a member of the TLC, Machmut-Jhasi was disqualified. After a very close contest between Nixon and Estes, the winner of the award for 2001 was Professor Todd Estes.

B. Educational Development Grants - R. Kushler, David Sidaway

This subgroup brought out publicity for the Educational Development Grants. At the November meeting we reviewed the criteria and procedures for these grants to see if we wished to make any changes from those used last year. All committee members read the applications, and the allocation of these funds was the result of full committee discussion.

At the April 5, 2001 meeting the Senate Committee for Teaching and Learning agreed to fund the following proposals accordingly:

- 1) "The Impact of Course-integrated Library Instruction on Business Students' Research Behaviors," Shawn V. Lombardo, Assistant Prof., Kresge Library, Cynthia E. Miree, Assistant Prof. of Management, SBA for \$300.
- 2) "Oakland University's International Students Meet Oakland University's Language Students," Dikka Berven, Special Instructor, Modern Languages and Literatures, for \$686.50
- 3) "Chemical Equilibrium Modeling Software for Interactive Learning Approach," Linda Schweitzer, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, for \$513.50
- 4) "Technology-enhanced Teaching Seminars for MTD Faculty and Students," Karl Boelter, Associate Professor, MTD, for \$500.

Equitable dispersion of \$2000 in the fund for ED DEVEL GRANTS resulted in:

- a) Boelter's proposal being funded at \$500. of the requested sum of \$1000.
and
- b) Bervan's proposal funded at 686.50 of a requested \$750.

C. TLC Newsletter - Niels Herold, Rob Anderson

The Newsletter editors were responsible for obtaining articles for a fall and winter edition of the committee newsletter, Insights and Ideas for Teaching and Learning. A student with experience in university publications was hired to do the actual layout. Vol. XIII, No. 1 contained an essay by Professor Peter Binkert, winner of the 2000 Teaching Excellence Award, entitled "Learning by Doing." Also in the fall edition: a short account from Niels Herold of the 20th annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, held at Miami University, on November 16-17, and the Newsletter's "Call for Nominations" for the 2001 Teaching Excellence Award. Vol. XIII., No. 2 contained a report by Rob Anderson about Professor Beverly Berger's presentation at the winter faculty luncheon of a new technology "for enhancing student participation in large lecture classes," the Wireless Personal Response System. Vol. XIII, No. 2 also featured an essay by Professor Herold entitled "Shakespeare and the Question of Distance Learning," as well as a "Call for Nominations" for the 2002 Teaching Excellence Awards, this time to be sent to Professor Tamara Machmut-Jhasi.

D. TLC Luncheon Series

Kay Palmer and Ron Somerville worked hard to make the this year's faculty luncheons successful events. The fall luncheon (November 29, 11:30-12:30 in the Lake Superior Room, OC) was devoted to the "The Theory and Practice of Evaluating Student Writing." Discussion was generated by a core panel of experts, including Professors Barbara Hamilton, Peter Binkert, and Margaret Willard-Traub. Some of the issues raised: What is the philosophy of composition as it relates to evaluation of student writing? What is the heuristic place of evaluating student writing in the various academic disciplines? What is the role of the Academic Skills Center in the tutoring and production of student writing? How can we identify practical strategies for reading, correcting, and grading student writing?

Those who attended the winter luncheon on March 20, 2001, 190 Hannah Hall, got a brief but intensively interactive look at a new technology for enhancing student participation in large lecture classes. Both events were well attended and enthusiastically evaluated.



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