

Annual Report 2007-2008

Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Anne Marie Mitchell, Chairperson

Date: August 1, 2008

2007-2008 Teaching and Learning Committee Members

Henry Aigbedo

Susan Awbrey

Pavlo Bosyy

Charles Clark

Melodie Kondratek

Joan Love

Austin Murphy

Anne Marie Mitchell, Chairperson

There are four primary activities of the Teaching and Learning Committee: 1) to make recommendations of one full-time faculty member and one part-time faculty member for the Teaching Excellence/Excellence in Teaching Awards; 2) to recommend allocations of the educational development grant funds; 3) to publish the committee newsletter, "Insights and Ideas for Teaching and Learning"; and 4) to sponsor faculty luncheons/workshops to promote outstanding teaching and learning practices.

The 2007-2008 Committee

During the fall and winter semesters the Teaching and Learning Committee met approximately every two weeks or on 16 occasions.

I. **Teaching Excellence Award:** A call for nominations was sent forth in the fall and nominations were accepted online for the Teaching Excellence Award and the Excellence in Teaching Award. The nominees are listed in the table below. The chair notified all candidates and requested materials from the candidate that provided information relative to their teaching activity at Oakland University. Additionally, the chair obtained names and addresses of students, ten from the nominees and ten randomly selected from their chairpersons, in order to solicit student letters of recommendation. The analysis of the materials and the selection of the winners took place early in the Winter Semester, 2008.

Table 1: Nominations Fall 2006, for the Teaching Excellence Award and for the Excellence in Teaching Award:

Teaching Excellence		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>
1	Bloom, Thomas	Counseling
2	Chaney, Michael	Mathematics
3	Dunn, Karen	Nursing
4	Hahn, Stacey	Modern Languages
5	Harris, Meghan	Nursing
6	Hawkins, Susan	English
7	Insko, Jeffrey	English
8	Jackson, Frances	Nursing
9	Pittiglio, Laura	Nursing
10	Schillace, Ralph	Nursing
11	Skomski, Ralph	Rhetoric
Excellence in Teaching		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>
1.	Baker, Dawn	Nursing
2.	Berishaj, Kelly	Nursing
3.	Bruska, Julie	Nursing
4.	Day, Mary Rose	Nursing
5.	O'Dwyer, Philip	Counseling
6.	Freeman, Karen	Nursing
7.	Ketchem, Patricia	Nursing
8.	Lenz, Sydney	Nursing
9.	McGrath, Lisa	Nursing
10.	Mouradjian, Marylyn	Nursing
11.	Poly--Droulard , Lynda	Nursing
12.	Roebuck, John	Nursing
13.	Saed, Ghassan	Nursing
14.	Ward, Collin	Counseling
15.	Zeppelin, Mary	Education & Human Services

2008 Teaching Excellence Award Winner: Susan Hawkins English, Ph.D
 Associate Professor
 College of Art and Sciences

2008 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner: Mary Zeplin, Ph. D
 Special Instructor
 School of Education and Human Services

II. Educational Development Grants:

The 2008 call for Proposals was issued in February of 2008 and posted in the Friday Announcements and the newsletter. The submission form was revised in 2007. The decision was made to use the same form for the 2008 proposals. The form that was used is labeled Appendix I. Five proposals were submitted and four were funded.

Table 2: Educational Grant Development Proposals

	Investigator(s)	Project Title	Decision	Amount requested/funded
1	Williams, Keith	Evaluating the Impact of I-Clicker Response Devices in the Classroom	Funded	\$750.00/\$750.00
2	Mabee, Barbara	Innovations in Intermediate German.	Funded	\$750.00/\$750.00
3	Maher, Sara	Essentials of Electrophysiological Examination & Evaluation.	Funded	\$750.00/\$750.00
4	Spencer-Wood, Susan	Using a new technique: Transforming new slides into powerpoints	Funded	\$750.00/\$750.00
5	Tres, Gheorghita	Exploring and Incorporating the European e-Learning Experience by attending a conference on e-learning in Cyprus.	Not Funded	\$750.00/00

The final report format was revised to reflect the new requirement added for recipients of 2008 Educational Grant Funding (EGD) funding. The form is labeled Appendix II and specifies that in the final report the recipient of an EGD must include an itemized list of all expenditures and receipts must be attached.

III. Newsletters:

The Teaching and Learning Committee published two newsletters during the year, one in the fall semester and a second in the winter term. Both newsletters can be retrieved by following the link to the recently developed committee website:

http://www2.oakland.edu/tlcommittee/files/FA_07_Newsletter.pdf

Anne Mitchell was responsible for the editorial review and management of both newsletters and Lori Winslow was critical to the final publication effort of both newsletters.

The fall newsletter included a feature article by Nancy Jones of the English Department titled:

College Reading Skills: How Do Students Approach the Text? How Do Professors Approach the Students?

The author identified the characteristics of a student who is a proficient reader and possesses critically needed comprehension skills and contrasted a student with this skill set to a college student who is underprepared to manage college level reading assignments. The website for the Michigan Department of Education documents is provided facilitating college faculty's access to the new high school curriculum designed to improve the literacy ability of future college students. For current students having difficulty with reading and comprehension the author provided 10 strategies teachers can implement to assist the students in improving their reading ability and increasing the chances for academic success.

A review of the Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching and Learning, held in Traverse City, was provided by several faculty who attended the 2007 event. Session of particular interest were those on the use of iPod, iClicker, Utube, second life and a variety of interactive technologies targeted at improving student engagement. Several Oakland faculty members were able to attend the conference via sponsorship of Cathy Cheale, Vice President of E-learning and Instructional Support and Susan Awbrey, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Dr. Susan Awbrey.

The winter semester newsletter featured an article by the 2007 Excellence in Teaching winner Dr. Peter J. Bertocci, Professor of Anthropology. The article was titled:

Wake-Up Call

The focus of Dr. Bertocci's article was Director Laura Schartman's presentation in the fall of 2007 on the data obtained through the National Study on Student Engagement (NSSE). He offered a faculty member's perspective on the data and expressed concern for the findings of the investigation stating: "***the ineluctable conclusion one draws from the study is that Oakland is at the mean or often below the mean in performance on most indicators in comparison with the other institutions in all categories***". A challenge was issued to all faculty to work toward increasing student engagement and to improve their own instructional performance to a level that reflects the university mission and ideals. The Teaching Learning Committee was urged to take a leadership role in facing this challenge.

IV. Workshops and Luncheons:

The committee sponsored three luncheon/workshops during the year. The first luncheon was held in November 2007 and the focus was the NSSE data. Dr. Laura Schartman, director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment gave a presentation titled:

"What Students Are Telling Us About Their OU Experience: Results from the NSSE Survey?"

The findings of the most recent study on student engagement were presented to the faculty. The NSSE survey explores the efforts undertaken by educational institutions to promote and support proven instructional

methodologies as well as activities, experiences and outcomes that the students receive as a result of the institutions efforts. Student responses were presented. The data obtained from Oakland University students was compared to student surveys from similar peer institutions. Dialogue with faculty followed. The interaction was among peers was dynamic and intensive.

In the winter term a luncheon was provided for the nominees of the Teaching Excellence Award and Excellence in Teaching Award. A power point presentation developed by Anne Mitchell was presented highlighting the nominees, a photo vignette of their personal philosophy of teaching and various activities they engaged in with students.

*Melodie Kondratek, Pavlo Bosyy and Henry Aigbedo were active contributing members in making provisions for the luncheons.

Additionally in the winter term the Teaching and Learning Committee co-sponsored a luncheon/workshop with the Assessment Committee on the topic of the E-Portfolio. The luncheon took place on March 13 2008. Cathy Cheal and Scott Crabill provided a demonstration for uses of the E-Portfolio to the faculty.

V. Additional Activities

- A critical undertaking of the Teaching Learning Committee (TLC) was the development of a website for the TLC committee. Scott Crabill, Lori Winslow and Anne Mitchell worked jointly to retrieve past newsletters, current forms faculty can access to submit internal proposals and final report forms. Additional information on local, national and international teaching conferences has been added. External funding opportunities are included on the website. The central location will assist future Chairperson's and new committee members in building upon prior achievements and engaging in new undertakings. Furthermore, the website will promote faculty access to the activities and opportunities the Teaching and Learning Committee has created for the faculty. <http://www2.oakland.edu/tlcommittee/>
- During the winter term two informal coffee hours were held to provide a venue for an exchange of idea's among faculty across disciplines, networking opportunities and fellowship. The primary goal was to engage faculty in discussions that permitted open sharing of teaching methodologies that had been implemented and the faculties experience with different efforts to engage students and promote retention. Refreshments were provided and all who attended received a complimentary 2007-2008 Teaching Learning Committee coffee cup. Susan Awbrey, Scott Crabill and Beth Kramer were instrumental in promoting this activity.
- The committee had on-going discussions on the confusion the Teaching Award titles' generates for those putting forth nominations. Teaching Excellence (for tenure track and tenured faculty) and Excellence in Teaching (for non- tenure track faculty) are often not well understood by students who provide the majority of nominations. Additional clarification

could be specified in the call for nominations, or the titles could be changed to better reflect the distinction.

- Further discussions were conducted regarding a faculty member's eligibility for the two teaching awards. One specific concern was the number of Visiting Faculty from the School of Nursing who were nominate. Visiting faculty are not eligible to receive either of the Teaching Awards. The committee agreed that a student, faculty member or administrator should be able to submit a nomination for **any individual** who they feel is performing a level worthy of a nomination. *However, it may be beneficial to inform the candidate of their eligibility (the congratulations letter may be a venue for this) and not require them to submit documents that involve extensive time to prepare and send to the committee.* All nominees would still be **included in the luncheon** to celebrate and honor the work they have done for the university. The committee agrees that a nomination remains **a valuable form of recognition** for an individual and unless a third category is made available for Visiting Faculty, the committee offers caution on excluding any faculty that a student, peer or administrator may wish to recognize.
- A serious undertaking of the Teaching Learning Committee during the 2007-2008 year was providing support for the first Teaching Learning International Conference. A sub- committee was formed to provide focused attention to this undertaking. Lori Winslow and Austin Murphy volunteered to dedicate time to this effort and worked closely with Chris Clason and Scott Crabill. The conference took place in May of 2008. The conference was well attended and very productive. **It is recommended that the fall 2008 newsletter provide highlights of the conference.**
- During the winter term an issue was brought to the committee by John McEneaney, (mceneane@oakland.edu) concerning E-Learning and Instructional Support Learning. The committee reviewed the policy on instructional support and invited John to address the group at meeting. The committee recognized this matter as one of vital importance to explore further however was unable to do so with the new undertaking of many additional activities in the winter 2008 term. It is recommended that this item have priority in the fall 2008 agenda and a response to the concerns raised by John be issued.
- Anne Mitchell attended the Equity in the Classroom conference held at Farris State University March 30th – April 1 2008 and will be participating in planning the 2008 Equity in the Classroom Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Mitchell
Chairperson 2007-2008