



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

Annual Report 2018 – 2019

Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Melissa McDonald, Co-Chair

Amanda Nichols Hess, Co-Chair

Date: June 3, 2019

2018-2019 Teaching and Learning Committee Members:

Melissa McDonald, co-chair (2016-2019)

Amanda Nichols Hess, co-chair (2017-2020)

Judith Ableser (ex-officio, non-voting)

Daniel Arnold, 2018-2021

Meaghan Barry, 2018-2021

Fabia Ursula Battistuzzi, 2016-2019

Julie Dermidoff, 2018-2021

Daniel Goble, 2018-2019

Julia Ketelhut, 2018-2019

Victoria Lucia, 2016-2019

Kieran Mathieson, 2018-2021

Emileigh Megel, 2018-2019

Elizabeth Shesko, 2017-2020

Lan Yao, 2018-2021

The Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) is a university senate committee dedicated to promoting the teaching function and the learning process. To this end, the committee sponsors incentives for good teaching and significant ideas and approaches to teaching and learning.

The Teaching and Learning Committee awards Educational Development Grants and university-wide teaching awards: Teaching Excellence, Excellence in Teaching, and Excellence in Online Teaching, respectively. As a standing committee of the university senate, TLC initiates campus-wide projects to provide for a more structured outlet for reflection on both the teaching and learning process and the aspirations and accomplishments of the teaching profession.



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

The 2018 – 2019 Committee Meetings

The committee met four times during the 2018-2019 academic year – twice each semester – and communicated regularly via email and its eSpace site. The meetings were held on:

- Monday, September 24, 1-2pm
- Monday, November 19, 1-2pm
- Thursday, January 3, 11am-12pm
- Thursday, April 4, 9-10am

Teaching Excellence Award and Excellence in Teaching Awards: The call for nominations were publicized by a sub-committee of TLC members directed by co-chair Melissa McDonald. The nominations flyer was sent via e-mail to all department chairs, various faculty and staff who regularly connect with students (e.g., first year advising, tutoring center, honors college), members of student congress, and to the presidents and advisors of all OU student organizations. The nomination process was also advertised on our OU website, CETL's listserv, the OU online learning community in eSpace, and the Provost's Friday announcements. Finally, the sub-committee set up a banner and table in the OC and posted flyers to bulletin boards throughout buildings on campus. This push was executed in the early Fall for the 2018-2019 award, and again in late Winter to begin advertising for the 2019-2020 award.

The nominations process was simplified from the previous year via use of a short Google form. The strong push to advertise the award and the simpler process led to a substantial pool of nominees, far exceeding past years' number of nominees. In total, we received 152 faculty nominations (17 of which were for the online award). Of these, 20 faculty chose to submit materials to apply for the full-time faculty award, 17 for the part-time faculty award, and 4 for the online award.

Each applicant who applied for an award submitted a personal statement, supplemental materials to support their application (e.g., a syllabus or CV), and a minimum of one faculty/staff support letter and three student letters of support. Each applicants' files were reviewed by two members of the committee, and rated on a 1-9 scale in three categories. Top scoring applicants in each category were reviewed by the full committee, and discussed at an in-person meeting to determine the winners for each award. Strong agreement was reached for the selected winner in each category. A letter of recognition for those scoring an average of 8 or higher was sent at the end of the Winter 2019 semester to commend their excellence in teaching and to encourage their re-application if nominated in future semesters.



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

The winners of each award category are listed below:

Teaching Excellence Award (full-time faculty)

- **Krzysztof (Chris) Kobus** (School of Engineering and Computer Science)

Excellence in Teaching Award (part-time faculty)

- **Caterina Pieri** (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures)

Excellence in Online Teaching Award (part-time and full-time faculty)

- **Amy Rutledge** (Decisions and Information Systems department, School of Business Administration)

Teaching Excellence Nominees Luncheon: The Committee sponsored a luncheon in honor of the teaching excellence, excellence in teaching, and excellence in online teaching award nominees on March 1, 2019. Co-chair Amanda Nichols Hess, with the help from various committee members and administrative support from CETL, organized the luncheon. Amanda Nichols Hess and Dan Arnold compiled nominees' pictures and developed a presentation that was set up to auto slide every 5 seconds on a loop during the luncheon. Provost James Lentini and Judy Ableser gave remarks at the luncheon, and Victoria Shively – a 2018 award recipient – also spoke to all attendees. Each nominee was given a signed certificate in recognition of their nomination.

Teaching Award Plaques: Throughout the 2018-2019 year, Amanda Nichols Hess worked with Theresa Hardnett in Academic Affairs to ensure that the three teaching awards were represented by plaques in the Kresge Library. While the Teaching Excellence Award (tenure track) has a large and prominent plaque on display, the Excellence in Teaching Award (non-tenure track) has no plaque and the new Excellence in Online Teaching Award needed to have a plaque ordered. Theresa and Amanda worked to ensure that all past Excellence in Teaching award winners' names and departments were correctly represented on the plaque, and that the correct information was provided for the 2019 Teaching Award winners. Future committee co-chairs can work with Ms. Hardnett to order additional name plates for these plaques.

Educational Development Grants: Grants are issued on a rolling basis, with no set deadline for proposal submission. Information about the application process can be found here:

<https://oakland.edu/senate/tlccommittee/> Six proposals were received, reviewed, and voted on by the committee. All six were approved for funding:

- **Charlene Hayden** (Chemistry): \$750 for “PollEverywhere” software to increase student engagement and reduce DFWI rates in Chemistry I and II

- **Elizabeth Kattner** (SMTD): \$335 for a dance preparation course to ensure that the dance education curriculum at OU aligns with national standards.
- **Melissa Hoag** (SMTD): \$750 for travel to a music theory pedagogy conference.
- **Josephine Walwema** (Writing & Rhetoric): \$719.60 for travel to present at the Computers and Writing Conference, with an aim to increase knowledge of methods for promoting accessible and inclusive writing classrooms.
- **Jeffrey Heisler** (SMTD) \$719 for video recording technology hardware for applied music instruction within a saxophone studio at OU.
- **Elizabeth Shesko** (History): \$750 to attend a 3-day workshop on the use of innovative gaming techniques for teaching history (e.g., role play of historical events).

Event Sponsorship: The committee co-sponsored a special CETL session highlighting and celebrating 2018 Teaching Excellence Award winners in January 2019. The committee also co-sponsored the OU Instructional Fair held in April 2019.

eSpace and Google Drive Updates: The committee's eSpace was thoroughly reorganized and updated by Amanda Nichols Hess, co-chair. Melissa McDonald, co-chair, substantially restructured the committee's Google Drive presence.

Changes for 2019-2020: In concluding the 2018-2019 committee's work, the TLC met to discuss how to improve processes for the future. In 2019-2020, the TLC will:

- **Streamline the Teaching Excellence Award application process:** The committee decided to simplify nominees' application processes by:
 - Create a standard Google Form for nominees to complete as their personal statement – these entries will then be compiled into a Google Spreadsheet;
 - Create standard Google Forms for students and colleagues, respectively, to complete as indications of support (instead of more formal letters of support) – these entries will then be compiled into a Google Spreadsheet; and
 - Allow applicants to reuse all materials for four years, including student/colleague indications of support.
- **Provide additional guidance about the Teaching Excellence Award application process:** The committee decided to clarify nominees' application process by holding the Teaching Excellence Award nominees' luncheon in the fall 2019 semester. TLC members hope this will help:
 - Ameliorate luncheon fatigue in the spring term (e.g. Founders Day lunch, Excellence in Online Teaching lunch);
 - Avoid inadvertently revealing winners' names;
 - Offer an opportunity for co-chairs to discuss the application process in person while nominees can still submit materials for consideration.

The committee has also heard from nominees that they would like to know in advance of the Founders Day luncheon whether they have received the award; previously, the committee has not been allowed to share that information, per Academic Affairs' direction. However, in 2019-2020, the committee will continue to explore how to ensure that nominees/applicants who did not receive a Teaching Excellence Award are notified in a more formal way.

- **Consider recognition of high-scoring or exemplary nominees who do not receive one of the teaching awards:** In spring 2019, the TLC co-chairs sent letters of recognition to all award applicants who had an average score of 8 or higher; in general, these letters were well-received. Depending on the number of nominees/applicants in the 2019 awards cycle, the TLC will consider if this, or some other kind of, recognition is appropriate for high-scoring applicants. The TLC has fielded ideas from committee members and will continue to explore ways of recognizing wider swaths of excellent OU faculty on its website and through other resources (e.g. OU TV spotlight, Excellence in Teaching database).
- **Consider promoting Educational Development Grants more widely:** The TLC agreed that the Educational Development Grants could be more widely advertised. Although calls for applications were submitted in the Provost's weekly announcements toward the end of the winter 2019 semester, the 2019-2020 committee will consider how to promote these awards in different ways.