



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Liz Shesko, Co-Chair

Date: May 19, 2020

2019-2020 Teaching and Learning Committee Members:

Liz Shesko, co-chair (2017-2020)
Fabia Ursula Battistuzzi, Winter co-chair (2016-2019, Winter 2020)
Meaghan Barry, Fall co-chair, 2018-2021
Judith Ableser (ex-officio, non-voting)
Daniel Arnold, 2018-2021
Jada Boyd, 2019-2020
Julie Dermidoff, 2018-2021
Mackenzie Hill, 2019-2020
Qunfeng Liao, 2019-2022
Kieran Mathieson, 2018-2021
Megan Peiser, 2019-2022
Mozhgon Rajaei, 2017-2020
Joshua Robinson, 2019-2020
Robert Uptegraff, 2017-2020
Zhijun Wu, 2019-2022
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 2019-2020 academic year – three times in the fall and once in the Winter – and communicated regularly via email. The final meeting would have been held in April 2020 but was moved to Google Docs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meetings were held on:

- Tuesday, September 17, 10-11am
- Monday, October 21, 11am-12pm
- Tuesday, November 19, 12-1pm
- Tuesday, January 7, 2-3pm

Teaching Excellence Award and Excellence in Teaching Awards: The call for nominations were publicized by co-chair Meaghan Barry with the aid of committee members. 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. This push was executed in the early Fall for the 2019-2020 award, and again in late Winter to begin advertising for the 2020-2021 award.

The committee used the same Google form as the previous year for the nominations process. The strong push to advertise the award and the simpler process led to a substantial pool of nominees, similar to the previous year. In total, we received 149 faculty nominations from all the colleges and schools, except for the School of Medicine. Of these, 19 faculty chose to submit materials to apply for the full-time faculty award, 12 for the part-time faculty award, and 7 for the online award. The number of total applicants (38) was down slightly from the previous year (41).

The committee chose to substantially revise the application process based on suggestions from the previous years' committee. Instead of a narrative-style personal statement, we asked that each applicant use a Google form to answer three specific prompts and attach supplemental materials. We also allowed applicants to attach evidence of student and faculty support (evaluations, review material, or unsolicited communications) rather than soliciting support letters for each applicant. We still solicited support letters for those that requested them. The committee made these changes to simplify the application and review process and to compensate for a perception that the narrative-style personal statement and support letters favored faculty from writing-intensive disciplines.



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Co-chair Fabia Battistuzzi took the lead in organizing the review. 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.

The winners of each award category are listed below:

Teaching Excellence Award (full-time faculty)

- **Mark Isken** (Decision and Information Science department, School of Business Administration)

Excellence in Teaching Award (part-time faculty)

- **Margaret Ann Murphy** (Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences)

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

- **Phyllis White** (School of Music Theater and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences)

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 December 6, 2019. This luncheon had previously been held in March, but the committee decided to move it in order 1) to clear up confusion that the winners would be announced then and 2) use the luncheon as an opportunity to answer questions about the application process. Co-chair Liz Shesko, with the help from various committee members and administrative support from CETL, organized the luncheon. Co-chair Meaghan Barry compiled blurbs about each nominee from the nomination form 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 2019 award recipients Chris Kobus and Caterina Pieri also spoke to all attendees. Each nominee was given a signed certificate in recognition of their nomination.

Teaching Award Plaques: The names of the 2020 award winners were not included on the plaques because of the closure of the library and businesses due to COVID-19. Future committee co-chairs can work with Theresa Hardnett in Academic Affairs 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](#):



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

- **Julia Rodriguez** (University Libraries): \$420 for six faculty members from across the university to attend a one-day conference on open educational resources (OER) at Delta College
- **Emily Spunaugle** (University Libraries): \$623.09 to purchase book cradles for use with the Library Archives and Special Collections' rare materials that are used for class instruction by several departments in CAS
- **Elizabeth Kattner** (Music, Theater and Dance): \$750 for travel to National Dance Education Organization annual conference in order to meet with the directors to work on aligning OU materials with national standards
- **Raquel Prieta** (Modern Languages and Literatures): \$750 for travel to participate in an Oral Proficiency Interview Assessment Workshop by the American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages
- **Susan McCarty** (English): \$750 for travel to the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference to speak as part of a panel about creative writing pedagogy (This conference was cancelled due to the pandemic, but the panel was moved to the 2021 conference and the committee opted to reserve funds for McCarty to participate next year, if possible)
- **Dikka Berven** (Modern Languages and Literatures): \$297 for OU faculty members, administrators, and librarians to participate in a webinar on OER and gain one-year of access to webinar materials
- **Caterina Pieri** (Modern Languages and Literatures): \$396 to use pressbooks.com format and share four OER textbooks that she created, making them editable and navigable for student use

Event Sponsorship: The committee co-sponsored a special CETL session highlighting and celebrating 2019 Teaching Excellence Award winners in October 2019. Because of the pandemic, the OU Instructional Fair, which the committee co-sponsors annually, was cancelled in 2020.

Email Address: The committee purchased the email address senatetlc@oakland.edu to provide continuity of communications as the committee chairs change each year. This will allow future chairs to see all previous communications and minimize the updates that need to be made annually to forms and web pages.

Google Drive: The committee is now using a shared Google Drive for all business.



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Changes for 2020-2021: Due to the closure of campus, the TLC used a Google Doc to generate suggestions for the future:

- **Streamline the Teaching Excellence Award review process:** Consider using evaluator pairs (the same two reviewers for a certain subset of applicants) and then having the whole committee review the top one or two scorers from each pair to determine winners
- **Chair and Co-Chair:** The committee has had co-chairs for the last few years. We recommend having a chair whose term is expiring and a co-chair who has two more years and has tentatively agreed to take over as chair for the final year. We hope this will provide for more continuity.
- **Further publicize the teaching awards at the Medical School:** We did not have any nominees from the Medical School this cycle. We suggest looking into ways to further publicize the nomination process there. We also request that a representative from the Medical School be appointed to the committee next year.
- **Consider recognition of high-scoring or exemplary nominees who do not receive one of the teaching awards:** In spring of 2020, the TLC co-chairs sent letters of recognition to all award applicants with high scores. 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). We began collecting data this year on keywords for inclusion in an eventual database.
- **Consider promoting Educational Development Grants more widely:** The TLC agreed that the Educational Development Grants could be more widely advertised. They were advertised through the Provosts' weekly announcements this year.