



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Tammy Grace, Chair

Date: May 30, 2025

2024-2025 Teaching and Learning Committee Members:

Tammy Grace, Chair, 2022-2025

Kate Bowers for Dan Delvescovo, 2022-2025

Amany Tawfik, 2022-2025

Linda Doornbos, 2023-2026

Subha Bhaskaran, 2023-2026

Robert Del Greco, 2023-2026

Elena Borrelli, 2024-2027

Kyeorda Kemp, 2024-2027

Yvonne Kasine for Margaret Harris 2024-2027

April Thomas-Powell (Staff)

Sean Moore (Staff)

Lance Markowitz (Student Congress)

Daniela Meson (Student Congress)

Allison Drezwiecki (Student Congress)

Mackenzie Smith (Student Congress)

Committee Meetings

The committee primarily conducted its duties asynchronously. Synchronous meetings were held on October 8, 2024, November 19, 2024, January 31, 2025 and March 7, 2025.

Teaching Excellence Awards

The call for nominations was updated to enlist the cooperation of the Deans of each college, who disseminated nomination information and encouraged participation. The nomination process was also advertised on OU's website, CETL's listserv, the Provost's Friday Announcements and by committee members. The committee asked that nominations be submitted using the form under the "Student" tab in Moodle and closed other forms and URLs. The deadline for nominations was October 18, 2024.

The committee received 61 nominations (including one self-nomination) for 37 faculty members from colleges and schools across campus. As nominations serve as a form of recognition, the committee unanimously voted to remove the self-nomination option that was instituted on a trial basis last year.

During a thorough review of the application process, the committee assessed the validity of the existing evaluation prompts and considered potential updates. The committee agreed that using more specific prompts, such as those referencing syllabi (as used by Atherton & Eisenhower), could introduce measurement concerns, especially given that some faculty are required to use a standardized template. In considering future updates, the committee should ensure they do not introduce bias.

In tandem with the prompt review, the committee updated the supporting document options and added the term "hybrid" to the Online Teaching Award prompt to better reflect courses taught primarily online. The Chair led the application process by simplifying the guidelines, creating a new Qualtrics application form and notifying nominees via a congratulatory email. The committee received ten tenure, five non-tenure and two online applications.

Prior to evaluating the applications, the committee revised the performance descriptors, criteria, and rating scale (reducing it from ten to five points). The Chair organized the review process by developing a new Qualtrics rating form; creating a prompt response and supporting document file for each applicant; emailing the files to two separate committee members for review; conducting a training session; compiling reviewers' scores; and ranking the applicants.

The committee discussed and approved the top-ranking applicant in each category. The following recommendations were submitted to and approved by the Provost's office:

- Jeffery Insko: Excellence in Teaching for Tenure Track Faculty Award
- Randall Engle: Excellence in Teaching for Non-Tenure Track Faculty Award
- Suzanne Spencer-Wood: Excellence in Online Teaching Award

Although the Provost's Office oversees communication about the Teaching Excellence Awards, several applicants reached out between the submission deadline and Founders Day to ask about the results. The committee explained that winners would be announced at the event and that the Provost's Office would notify recipients. To reduce future inquiries, the committee should collaborate with the Provost's Office to establish a process for notifying applicants who were not selected.

Award Luncheon and Plaques

The committee expressed disappointment over CETL's cancellation of this year's luncheon. The Chair provided e-Lis with the names and email addresses of the Online Teaching Award nominees for inclusion in their annual luncheon. The Chair also drafted summary paragraphs for inclusion in the Founders Day materials. As in previous years, the Provost office will order plaques.

Educational Development Grants

Grants are issued on a rolling basis, with no fixed deadline. The committee discussed the benefits of continuing to evaluate and award the grants independently, expressing concern that CETL may seek to assume responsibility for the process.

This year, the committee received, approved and funded one Educational Development Grant. The \$150 request, submitted by Katie Hartsock, Associate Professor of English & Creative Writing, supported a guest presentation by acclaimed poet Ama Codjoe.

To encourage more applications, the committee should consider promoting the grant more widely and simplifying the application process.

New Awards

Per the Provost's Office, the three new awards proposed last year did not receive funding. The committee may wish to determine whether continued pursuit of funding is warranted.

Change of Membership and Charge

Although the committee expressed concern that the request for a change in membership and charge was drafted by CETL and e-LIS without input from the Teaching and Learning Committee, the committee acknowledged the importance of updating its structure to better reflect the rapidly evolving teaching and learning landscape.

After reviewing the composition of other Senate committees, the committee supported the language encouraging diverse membership. However, members strongly recommended that the Director of CETL, Director of e-LIS, and Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning serve as non-voting members. This recommendation aligns with the ex-officio roles on other Senate committees and supports the committee's independent functioning.

Request Rationale

The teaching and learning environment has undergone significant transformation since the current charge was written. With student success as the university's top priority, it is essential for the committee to play a more active role in proposing, supporting, and promoting best practices to enhance learning outcomes. The committee also seeks to strengthen collaboration with campus partners to foster a culture of excellence and would like to revise its membership to align with this goal.

Current Membership

Membership	Status	Terms	Appointment Body
Nine faculty, eligible to serve as chair	Voting	Staggered, 3 years	Senate upon nomination by the Steering Committee
Four students	Voting	1 year	Student Congress
Two administrative professionals	Voting	Staggered, 3 years	AP Assembly
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (or designee)	Non-voting Ex-officio	While Exec Vice President or for period designated	Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Proposed Membership

Membership	Status	Terms	Appointment Body
Seven faculty eligible to be named chair, one faculty member from each school/college and the library, and two at-large faculty eligible to be named chair.	Voting	Staggered, 3 years	Senate upon nomination by the Steering Committee
Two students (one undergraduate and one graduate)	Voting	1 year	Student Congress Graduate school
Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning	Non-voting Ex-officio	While department Chair	SEHS
Director of CETL	Non-voting Ex-officio	While Director of CETL	Director of CETL
Director of e-Lis	Non-voting Ex-officio	While Director of e-Lis	Director of e-Lis
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (or designee)	Non-voting Ex-officio	While Exec Vice President or for period designated	Exec Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Current Charge

- To promote the teaching function and the learning process by sponsoring incentives for good teaching and by publicizing within the University significant ideas and approaches to teaching and learning;
- 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.

Proposed Charge

- Propose and support initiatives and policies that foster an effective, inclusive, and collaborative teaching and learning environment at Oakland University. Identify challenges in this regard and recommend potential solutions.
- Communicate with and support campus partners such as, CETL, eLIS, DSS, CSITS, and UTS, in promoting best practices in teaching methodologies and technologies that enhance student engagement and learning.
- Recommend full and part-time faculty for university-wide teaching excellence awards. Review and revise, as needed, processes and criteria for the granting of these awards.
- Prepare and present an annual report to the Senate.

The Chair presented the proposed changes in membership and charge to the Senate Steering Committee on February 18, 2025 and to the Senate on March 20, 2025.