



Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Meaghan Barry, Co-Chair

Date:

2020-2021 Teaching and Learning Committee Members:

Meaghan Barry, Co-chair, 2018-2021

Qunfeng Liao, Co-chair, 2019-2022

Judith Ableser (ex-officio, non-voting)

Eileen Johnson, 2020-2023

Jonathan Yates, 2020-2023

Kieran Mathieson 2018-2021

Megan Peiser, 2020-2023

Zhijun Wu, 2019-2022

Daniel Arnold, 2018-2021

Julie Dermidoff, 2018-2021

Stephanie Recknagel, 2020–2021 (Student Congress)

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.

The 2020 – 2021 Committee Meetings

The committee primarily conducted its duties online, asynchronously, this academic year via email and using tools like Google Drive. The committee did hold two synchronous Zoom meetings at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester to introduce ourselves to one another, the charge of the committee, & responsibilities and expectations for the year ahead. The synchronous Zoom meetings were held:

- Friday, September 25, 12pm–1pm
- Friday, October 23, 12pm–1pm

Teaching Excellence Award and Excellence in Teaching Awards: The call for nominations were designed by co-chair Meaghan Barry and publicized with the aid of her fellow co-chair Qunfeng Liao and committee members. The nomination materials (digital flyer, social media-friendly posts, and a Powerpoint slide) were sent via email 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, and the Provost's Friday announcements. This push was executed in early Fall for the 2020-2021 award, and again in late Winter to begin advertising for the 2021-2022 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 188 faculty nominations from all the colleges and schools across campus for the 2020-2021 award. This was up by 39 nominations from the previous year. Of these, 17 faculty chose to submit materials to apply for the full-time faculty award, 12 for the part-time faculty award, and 6 for the online award. The number of total applicants (35) was down slightly from the previous year (38). We still solicited support letters for the applicants who requested them.

Co-chair Meaghan Barry took the lead in organizing the review process with committee members via email and Google Drive to allow for asynchronous review. The same process and review materials from 2019–2020 were used. Each applicants' files were reviewed by two members of the committee, and rated on a 1-9 scale in three categories.

Co-chair Qunfeng Liao took the lead in organizing the data gathered from the review process upon completion by committee members. The data revealed a clear winner in each individual category of the awards. The committee co-chairs sent this information, along with an Excel spreadsheet including the data, to the committee. The committee was given the option to further discuss the high scorers, and any other faculty in close contention for the awards, before sending along the final list of winners to the Provost's Office. However, all committee members agreed

with the initial data and approved sending forward the names of the clear high scorers in each category.

The winners of each award category are listed below:

- **Teaching Excellence Award** (full-time faculty): **Chiaoning Su** (Department of Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations in the College of Arts and Sciences)
- **Excellence in Teaching Award** (part-time faculty): **Shaun Moore** (School of Business and the Honors College)
- **Excellence in Online Teaching Award** (part-time and full-time faculty): **Charlene Hayden** (Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences)

Teaching Excellence Nomination Form: Co-chair Qunfeng Liao revised the “Teaching Excellence Award Nomination Form” (tinyurl.com/OUteachingexcellence) in December 2020. In Sections 2 and 3, She changed “Faculty member’s department:” from a short answer to a dropdown menu (with 42 options), added “Faculty member’s School or College:” (also a dropdown menu with 10 options), and added “Faculty member’s affiliation if you choose ‘other’ in both questions above:” to make it easier to match the nominees with their departments.

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Teaching Excellence Nominees Luncheon Alternative: Pre-pandemic, the committee held a luncheon to recognize Teaching Excellence nominees, and to encourage their applications for the award. Due to the on-going Covid-19 safety protocols, hosting this type of event was not tenable this year.

As an alternative to the luncheon, the committee agreed upon hosting a “virtual” recognition ceremony. The ceremony included pre-recorded remarks by Interim Associate Provost Cynthia Miree, 2019–2020 Teaching Excellence Award Winner Phyllis White, a slideshow presentation recognizing each nominee featuring a quote by their nominator, and a walk-through of the application process by committee co-chair Meaghan Barry. The “virtual” recognition ceremony can be viewed [here](#).

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Teaching Award Plaques: The names of the 2021 award winners and the 2020 award winners (could not be included on plaques due to covid-19 last year) were emailed to Theresa Hardnett in the Provost’s Office - Academic Affairs to add these name plates now that the library has re-opened. Hardnett has replied and noted she will begin working on this.

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/tlcccommittee/>

This year, the committee received zero Educational Development grant applications. In previous years, the committee primarily funded grants for travel-related requests. The co-chairs discussed this may be the reason for the lack of Educational Development grants this academic year, as travel was not allowed due to the pandemic.

In the upcoming academic year, the committee should consider advertising the grant across campus to remind faculty the funding is available. If travel restrictions continue to be in place at that time, the committee might consider providing a few non-related travel examples that the committee would approve related to educational development.

Feedback for the Excused Absence Policy: The committee provided feedback for the Excused Absence Policy in Winter 2021. This was requested by Chris Stiller, the OU Faculty Athletics Representative and the Chair of the Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (SIAC).

Committee Chair Checklist: Co-chair Meaghan Barry developed a “Committee Chair Checklist” that is saved in the senatetlc@oakland.edu Google Drive as a Google Doc. Barry organized the list by month in the academic calendar to help future committee chairs, as her term concludes this year. She is hopeful future committee chairs will continue to update this document to help provide continuity for future committees. The document can be seen [here](#).

Suggestions / Notes for 2021-2022:

- **Continuation of online & asynchronous committee communication:** The committee found working on via Zoom, Google Drive and email effective and efficient. In years prior, finding a shared time between all committee members, and an open meeting space on campus at that time, was challenging. The online space has presented many benefits to the committee’s work, and would suggest continuing working in this way even “post-covid”.
- **Promoting Educational Development Grants more widely:** The TLC should promote the Educational Development Grants more widely in 2021–2022. If travel restrictions are still in place, it will be important to highlight other funding possibilities to faculty for the grant.

- **Need a 2021-2022 Luncheon Space (if applicable):** The TLC committee co-chairs did not reserve a room for a 2021-2022 luncheon on campus yet, as covid-19 restrictions are still in place.
- **Consider if or how to notify the non-winners of the Teaching Excellence Award before Founders Day:** The committee understands that the Provost Office controls communication of the Teaching Excellence Award, but between the submission deadline and the Founders Day event, the committee did receive inquiries from applicants asking when winners would be announced. The committee did reply that the winners would be announced on Founders Day and that the Provost Office would be in touch if they were a winner, but it might be worth exploring if notifying applicants who did not win that cycle can / should know prior to that date to avoid these types of inquiries.