

Annual Report 2005-2006

Teaching and Learning Committee

Submitted by: Christopher R. Clason, Chair

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2005-2006 Teaching and Learning Committee Members

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There are four primary activities of the Teaching and Learning Committee: 1) to make recommendations of one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty members for the Teaching Excellence 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 2005-2006 Committee

During the fall and winter semesters the Teaching and Learning Committee met approximately every two weeks.

I. Teaching Excellence Award: 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 obtained names and addresses of students, ten from the nominees and ten randomly selected from their chairpersons, in order to solicit letters of recommendation from them. It was noted by the committee that relatively few letters were actually submitted by students in response to the call, and therefore it was suggested that the nomination and letter solicitation segments of the process be moved to a slightly earlier (~ 2 weeks) series of deadlines. The analysis of the materials and the selection of the winners took place early in the Winter Semester, 2006.

Table 1: Nominations, Fall 2005, for the Teaching Excellence Award and for the Excellence in Teaching Award:

Full -time		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>
1	Thomas Discenna	Communications
2	Laila Guessous	Mechanical Engineering
3	Darrin Hanna	Computer Science
4	David Dulio	Political Science
5	William Keane	Educational Leadership
6	Michael Chaney	Counseling
7	Todd Leibert	Counseling
8	Monica Tracey	HRD
9	Jackie Wiggins	Music
10	Imad Elhajj	CSE
11	Cynthia Sifonis	Psychology
12	Don Matthews	History
13	Robert Fink	Counseling
14	Gautam Singh	Computer Science
15	Greg Cunnningham	Music
16	Mary Zeppelin	TDES
17	Tom Suda	Theatre
18	Peter Bertocci	Anthropology
19	Balaji Rajagopalan	DIS
20	Gabrielle Stryker	Biology
21	Dagmar Cronn	Chemistry
22	Anna Spagnuolo	Math
24	Elysa Koppelman-White	Philosophy
25	Jeffrey Insko	English
26	Frank Lepkowski	Library
27	Jumane Sledge	TDES
Part-time		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>
1	John Simecek	Rhetoric
2	Stanley Staron	TDES
3	Rosemary Hughes	Women's Studies
4	Kathy Tiell	Psychology
5	Tushar Oza	Communications / IS
6	Theresa Arellano	Modern Languages
7	Benjamin Hoffiz	IS / Modern Languages
8	Pat Trentacoste	Philosophy
9	Kitty Dubin	MTD
10	Lindson Feun	Educational Leadership
11	Sumi Dinda	Biology

2006 Teaching Excellence Award Winner: Dagmar Cronn

2006 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner: Tushar Oza

II. Educational Development Grants: Over the course of the academic year, the committee reviewed the recommendations made by the previous committee (please see the annual report of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee for 2004-2005), made several changes and revised the call for proposals to reflect these changes. The revised call for proposals is attached to this report as Appendix 1. There were nine proposals submitted, of which eight were funded (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Educational Grant Development Proposals

	Investigator(s)	Project Title	Decision
1	Mariah Malec	Green Mountain Dance Teachers Retreat	Funded
2	Shannon Flumerfelt	A Case for Taxonomy Development and Use for Graduate Student Leadership Learning Processes	Not funded
3	Gregory Patterson	Pilates Certification	Funded
4	Thomas W. Blume	Expanding Counselling Options with Technology	Funded
5	Rosemary A. Hughes	Curriculum Development and Evaluation: Career Development for Women. Partnering of Women's Studies Program and the School of Education and Human Services Department of Human Resource Development	Not funded
6	Cynthia Sifonis	The Benefits and Consequences of Podcasting on Academic Performance in a Research Methods and Design Course	Funded
7	Ledong Li, Ph.D.	Integrating Technology into Literacy Education: Using Digital Storytelling to Enhance Language Literacy, Visual Literacy, and Media Literacy	Funded
8	Dagmar Cronn	Faculty development project for use of Personal Response System(s)	Funded
9	Melodie Kondratek & John Krauss	Developing Teaching Aids to Augment Clinical Decision-Making Skills in Physical Therapy	Funded

III. Newsletters: The Teaching and Learning Committee published two newsletters during the year.

1) The first newsletter was edited by Chris Clason, and it appeared in January 2006. The 2005 Excellence in Teaching Award winner, Dr. Alan Epstein of the Department of Political Science, authored a lengthy article on his teaching philosophy, which the committee decided to publish in two parts. Also appearing in this issue was an article by Susan Awbrey on the Foundations of Excellence program of first-year-student engagement, an article on technology and classroom ethics by Chris Clason, and an announcement regarding a faculty interest group on the SRS (Student Response System) that was forming.

2) Jennifer Heisler edited the second newsletter, which appeared in April 2006. This issue included the 2nd part of Dr. Epstein's article, as well as an article on the Student Response System by Dagmar Cronn and Jennifer Heisler's "Internet Connection" list of relevant sites for teaching and learning.

IV. Workshops and Luncheons: The committee sponsored two luncheons during the year.

1) The first luncheon was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2005, and was titled "Engaging the First Year Student." The presentations intended to encourage faculty to become better oriented to and equipped for dealing with students in their first year at the university. The speakers included Margaret Pigott, Associate Professor and Director of International Education, on education abroad; Dawn Aubry, Associate Director Admissions, and Sara Crampton, Coordinator for New Student Programs, on programs currently in place for the benefit of first-year students; Kellie Hay, Assistant Professor of Communications, on multi-cultural issues among first year students; Eileen Johnson, Assistant Professor of Education, on problem-based learning; and Imad Elhadj, Assistant Professor of Engineering, on technology and engagement.

2) The second luncheon was held on March 20, 2006, and honored the nominees for the Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Teaching Awards.

V. Other Activities: Vice-Provost Aubrey provided funds to send members of the committee to the Lilly Conference in Oxford, Ohio, in November 2005. Chris Clason attended and reported back to the committee on relevant sessions, especially addressing first year student engagement.

The committee will investigate the possibility of placing the entire process of nomination, collection of information and dossier evaluation of the two teaching awards during the summer break. The complete data base should be in place by the academic year 2007-08.

A newsletter is currently in preparation for distribution early in the Fall Semester 2006.

2006 Educational Development Grant Proposals

The Senate charge to the Teaching and Learning Committee is “to promote the teaching and the learning process.” In accordance with this charge, the Committee invites the Oakland University faculty and staff to apply for grants in educational development. Funding may be requested for projects whose primary purpose involves one or more of the following:

- Development and/or use of new teaching techniques.
- Development of a new instructional approach.
- Faculty development related to curricular responsibilities.
- Investigation of a teaching/learning problem.
- Evaluation of a method of teaching.

Individual awards will not normally exceed \$750. Student labor in conjunction with preparation of teaching materials may be funded. The Committee will not fund preparation for accreditation or program reviews nor will it fund travel costs or full-time faculty salaries. Joint proposals should identify a single lead applicant. The committee will not normally fund multiple proposals from a lead applicant. The cost of food, food services and photocopies will not be funded. The grant is not intended to support the purchase of software or hardware unless it is incidental to the development of the educational process.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 10, 2006.

Application forms (four pages) are available electronically on the Teaching and Learning Committee website <http://personalwebs.oakland.edu/~clason/tl/tl.html> as a downloadable Word doc.

Completed applications should be emailed to Jennifer Heisler (heisler@oakland.edu) by 5:00 P.M., Friday, March 10, 2006. The form should be downloaded, filled out electronically and sent as an attachment. Additionally, the electronic version must be followed by an identical, **signed** hard copy sent via campus mail to Jennifer Heisler, Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, 316 Wilson Hall. This hard copy of the application requires the signature of the department or unit head. The due date for the signed, hard copy is also 5:00 PM, Friday, March 10, 2006.

Each award recipient must file a final report at the conclusion of the project describing its purpose, activities and outcomes. The reports are due by March 1, 2007.

Questions and comments may be directed to Chris Clason at (248) 370-2063 or via email (clason@oakland.edu).