



Senate Teaching & Learning Committee

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Submitted by: Jonathan W Yates, Co-Chair

Date: July 11, 2023

2022-2023 Teaching and Learning Committee Members:

Jonathan Yates, Co-chair, 2020-2023 (**Outgoing**)

Changiz Mohiyeddini, Co-chair, 2021-2024 (**Incoming**)

Sarah Hosch (CETL; ex-officio, non-voting)

Eileen Johnson, 2020-2023

Megan Peiser, 2020-2023

Shicheng Chen, 2021-2024

Lynda Poly-Droular, 2021-2024

Tammy Grace, 2022-2025

Dan Delvescovo, 2022-2025

Kate Huttenlocher, 2021-2024

Julie Dermidoff, 2021-2024

Farooqi Murryum, 2022-2023 (Student Congress)

Amir Mitchell, 2022-2023 (Student Congress)

Tyler Koralewski, 2022-2023 (Student Congress)

DJ Lester, 2022-2023 (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 3 university-wide teaching awards: Teaching Excellence by Non-tenured faculty, Teaching Excellence by Tenured faculty, and Excellence in Online Teaching. As a standing committee of the university senate, the TLC initiates campus-wide projects to provide a more structured outlet for reflection on both the teaching and learning process and the aspirations and accomplishments of the teaching profession.

The 2022 – 2023 Committee Meetings

The committee primarily conducted its duties online, asynchronously, this academic year via email and using tools like the Google Drive. The committee did hold 2 HyFlex synchronous Zoom meetings, one at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester to introduce ourselves to one another, the charge of the committee, & responsibilities and expectations for the year ahead, and the second in January of 2023 as the committee finished up the TEA award process. The synchronous Zoom meetings were held:

- Tuesday, September 27, 2023, 10:00am–11:00am.
- Thursday, January 19, 2023, 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Although we had wished to move some of the committee’s work back to in-person meetings and events, the majority of the committee members seemed to prefer Zoom meetings and other virtual methods for accomplishing the committee’s work.

Teaching Excellence Awards: A call for nominations flyer for the teaching excellence awards was created and publicized with the aid of 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. A link to the TEA nomination form under the “Student” menu in Moodle was first introduced in early Fall for the 2021-2022 award, and again in late Winter to begin advertising for the 2022-2023 award. The link for nominating faculty continues to be available on Moodle for students.

The committee used the same Google form as the previous years for the nominations process. In total, we received 33 faculty nominations from schools and colleges across campus, include the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Engineering and Computer Science, and the School of Health Sciences. Of these, 13 faculty chose to submit materials to apply for the three awards, with 7 faculty applying for the tenure-track teaching award, and 3 faculty applying for the non-tenured teaching award and the Online teaching award, respectively. Both the total nominees and the number of applicants who ended up applying for the Teaching Excellence awards were decreased from the previous year, when 26 faculty applied for the TEAs.

Co-chair Jonathan Yates took the lead in organizing the review process with committee members via email and Google Drive to allow for asynchronous reviews. He arranged applicants’ data for review, assigned applicants to committee members for review, and summarized reviewers’ scores. Co-chair Yates wrote up the summary paragraphs for the 3 TEA winners. The paragraphs were sent to the Provost’s Office for use on Founders Day.

The same process and review materials from 2021–2022 were used. Each applicant’s file was reviewed by two members of the committee from different colleges or schools than the applicant, and rated on a 1-9 scale in these three categories: teaching style, impact on student learning, and continued professional growth. The data revealed a clear winner in two of the three awards – Tenure-track and the Online award. The Non-tenure track award initially had two candidates separated by a half point (0.5) Co-Chair Yates asked his fellow Co-Chair Mohiyeddini to provide a third scoring for the two candidates. Once a third set of scores were included in the calculations, a clear winner did emerge in this final award category. 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 during a meeting held on January 19th, before sending along the final list of winners to the Provost’s Office. All committee members agreed with the data and approved sending forward the names of the winner in each category. The winners were communicated to Associate Provost Mukherji on January 20th, 2023.

The winners of each award category are listed below:

- **Teaching Excellence Award** (Tenure-track faculty): **Taras Oleksyk** (CAS; Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences)
- **Excellence in Teaching Award** (non-tenure-track faculty): **Holly Greiner-Hallman** (CAS; Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences)
- **Excellence in Online Teaching Award** (part-time and full-time faculty): **Helena Riha** (CAS; International Studies)

Teaching Excellence Nominees Luncheon: The Committee sponsored a luncheon on December 16th, 2022 to recognize all of the Teaching Excellence nominees and to encourage their applications for the award. The luncheon was also streamed live via Zoom for those nominees and committee members who could not attend in person but wished to attend virtually. Co-Chair Yates reserved a space in the Oakland Center for the event and Co-Chair Mohiyeddini was tasked with organizing and arranging the lunch served during the event.

Co-chair Jonathan Yates hosted the Nominees luncheon. The ceremony included remarks by Associate Provost Nivedita Mukherji; the 2021–2022 Online Teaching Excellence Award Winner Sandra Troxell-Smith, and Dr. Sarah Hosch, the new faculty director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Continuing the tradition, a slideshow presentation recognizing each nominee with their photo and featuring a quote by their nominator was prepared and shown during the luncheon. Finally, Co-Chair Mohiyeddini finished the event with a walk-through of the application process for the assembled nominees. Each nominee was given

a signed certificate in recognition of their nomination. Mona Rau Stamos from CETL helped with printing and distributing the certificates.

Teaching Award Plaques: The names of the 2023 award winners were emailed to Theresa Hardnett in the Provost's Office - Academic Affairs to add these name plates in the library.

Educational Development Grants (EDGs): 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/>

At the beginning of the year, the budgets for many university expenses were cut/tightened. One result was that the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) lost its budget to award travel grants for faculty to attend the Lily Conference in Traverse City, MI. The new director of CETL, Sarah Hosch, reached out to the Co-Chairs of the TLC committee regarding funding travel grants with the funds set aside for the Educational Development Grants the TLC awards. These discussions continued through the fall and into the winter of 2023. With input and support from the Provost's office, the TLC and CETL have consolidated the funds allotted to each entity into a single budget managed by CETL. From this shared pool, a single application process has been developed for faculty to complete when applying for a grant. See linked documents below.

[ED Grant Disbursement flow](#)

[TLC Approved ED Grants](#)

Despite the uncertainty and challenges the funding issues presented, the TLC was still able to award 5 Educational Development grants during the 2022-2023 academic year. See list of awardees below:

- **Gregory W. Allar** (Department of Political Science): Travel to present at the Lily Conference on Teaching and Learning; \$695.00
- **Susan McCarty** (Department of English) Travel to the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference; \$362.00
- **Julie Ricks-Doneen:** Online course registration for Classroom Coach Training; \$425.00
- **Elizabeth Kattner-Ulrich:** Travel to attend the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Annual conference. \$750.00

- **Mary Murphy:** Travel to the National Dance Education Organization on Dance Education; \$750.00

Committee Chair Checklist: Co-chair Jonathan Yates updated the “Committee Chair Checklist” that is saved in the senatetlc@oakland.edu Google Drive as a Google Doc. The list is organized by month in the academic calendar to help future committee chairs. The hope is for future committee chairs to continue to update this document to help provide continuity for future committees. The document can be seen [here](#).

Suggestions / Notes for 2023-2024:

- **Teaching Excellence Award Deadlines:** Nominations for the 2024 Teaching Excellence Awards are due at 11:59 PM on XXXXX, October XX, 2023.
- Discussion among committee members to change the deadline for TEA Nominations. Perhaps move to April 15th or so. The October deadline results in freshman being informed about the teaching awards and the nomination link on Moodle and then nominating their first college professor, etc. A spring nomination deadline would then be drawn from students who are finishing a year and hopefully either graduating or returning in the fall. This switch would then alleviate the intensity of the committee’s work from the beginning of fall term on through the TEA luncheon and then Founder’s Day in the spring. With a spring deadline, the Nominee’s luncheon could then be moved up in the calendar (late October/early November). Similarly, the deadline for applications could be moved up to a date before the Christmas Holidays. The TLC members would then have more time to review and score the applicants prior to a mid-January deadline to name the winners.
- In the upcoming academic year, the committee could consider increasing efforts for advertising the Teaching Excellence Awards to the students and the Educational Development grants to faculty more effectively across campus. Perhaps have STLC members briefly visit some of the larger lecture classes on campus to promote the TEAs and the nomination link on Moodle? The new working arrangements between the TLC and CETL will allow a more coordinated and effective communication strategy for both the teaching awards and the EDGs.
- **Reserve a 2023-2024 Luncheon Space:** The TLC committee co-chairs may reserve a room for a 2023-2024 luncheon at the beginning of the Fall semester.

- **Consider if or how to notify the non-winners of the Teaching Excellence Award before Founders Day:** The committee understands that the Provost's Office controls communication of the Teaching Excellence Award, but between the submission deadline and the Founders Day event, the committee does receive inquiries from applicants asking when winners would be announced. The committee does reply that the winners would be announced on Founders Day and that the Provost's Office would be in touch if they were a winner. However, 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. This is an ongoing conversation.
- **Eligibility of TLC members to apply for the TEA award:** The committee started a discussion on whether the TLC members are eligible to apply for the TEA award during the 2021-2022 year. Currently and in the past, the committee members can only be nominated for the award but are not eligible to apply for the award. This issue was not addressed during the 2022-23 year.