

Annual Report – Distinguished Teaching Award Committee 2015-16

In compliance with article 6.1.1 of the Senate Bylaws, please accept this report as the official record of the Distinguished Teaching Award Committee's activity for 2015-16.

Committee Membership

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee for 2015-16 consisted of the following members:

Mark Unno, Co-Chair, Religious Studies (term expires 2016)
Sierra Dawson, Co-Chair, Human Physiology (term expires 2017)
Jennifer Ellis, Finance (term expires 2017)
Kathleen Scalise, Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership (term expires 2017)
Paul Peppis, English (term expires 2017)
Dan Tichenor, Political Science (term expires 2017)
Massimo Lollini, Romance Languages (term expires 2016)
Christian Mitchell, Student (term expires 2016)
Susan Anderson, convener, *ex-officio, non-voting*
Linda Adkins, staff, *ex-officio, non-voting*

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee is charged with responsibility “for the screening, investigation, and recommendation of candidates” to receive the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Ersted Award for Specialized Pedagogy, the Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the Thomas F. Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy. The traditional Ersted and Herman awardees receive \$4,000, with a permanent annual stipend of \$2,000 beginning in the second year; awardees of the Ersted and Herman Pedagogy Awards receive a one-time stipend of \$4,000.

Committee members evaluate the nominations received and select one for the Ersted and two for the Herman Distinguished Teaching Awards, and a maximum of three (this year) for the Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy and three (this year) for the Ersted Award for Specialized Pedagogy. The committee is comprised primarily of previous distinguished teaching award recipients, as well as one or two additional faculty members and a student representative. The Office of Academic Affairs provides administrative support.

Summary of Committee Activities

Nominations for the Ersted and Herman Awards were solicited during December and January with a posted deadline of January 28, 2016. We received a total of 50 nominations for 31 individuals.

The first committee meeting was held on February 24 to review the charge and timeline for committee work and to undertake a preliminary assessment of nominations and to screen out ineligible nominations. In the following weeks, committee members reviewed nomination letters, CV's and course evaluations.

The second committee meeting was held on March 24. Members chose 17 nominees to continue to round two. Academic Affairs staff obtained further information consisting of a statement from each nominee's department head addressing classroom instruction and the nominee's reputation and strengths, peer evaluations, qualitative course evaluations, and a summary grade distribution.

After reviewing all files electronically, the committee met again on April 15 to choose award winners. Details on this year's recipients are posted to the Academic Affairs website <http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/teachingawards>.

The committee will have a final meeting in fall of 2016 to review the selection process and consider recommendations for future years. During the current year deliberations, Vice Provost Susan Anderson as *ex-officio* committee member, and Mark Unno, Co-Chair, met with Gordon Nagayama Hall, Director of CoDaC, to review issues of equity and inclusion in terms of the demographics of the awardees as well as membership of the committee. Based on these meetings and discussions with the committee as a whole, it was strongly recommended that the announcement for the awards sent out to faculty, students, and staff as well as the formal procedures for executing the charge of the committee be revised to reflect the need for and significance of equity and inclusion, both in their broadest sense, and specifically to include language regarding women and gender, race and ethnicity, ability and disability. Furthermore, it was strongly recommended that the committee membership reflect this emphasis on equity and inclusion. During the past three years, we have typically had three women who were voting faculty members, and one faculty member of color. Greater equity and inclusion at all levels is desirable and necessary, but at minimum, committee membership should include adequate numbers of women faculty and faculty of color.

Award Recipients 2016

- Herman Award: Leah Middlebrook, Comparative Literature
- Herman Award: Mike Price, Mathematics
- Ersted Award: Stephen McKeon, Finance
- Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy: Alison Kwok, Architecture
- Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy: Leslie Steeves, Journalism & Communication
- Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy: Doug Wilson, Marketing
- Ersted Award for Specialized Pedagogy: Trygve Faste, Product Design
- Ersted Award for Specialized Pedagogy: Elizabeth Ruiz Frost, Law
- Ersted Award for Specialized Pedagogy: Jon Runyeon, Human Physiology

Additional Committee Business and Recommendations

John McCole, who served on the committee in 2014-15, was on a full-year sabbatical in 2015-16, but has agreed to serve the second year of his term in 2016-17.

Last but certainly not least, as Co-Chairs and on behalf of the Committee, we would like to give special thanks and our deepest appreciation to Mr. Thomas F. Herman and the Ersted family endowment for their great contributions making these awards possible; President Michael Schill and the Office of the President, for their support and encouragement; Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Susan Anderson, *ex-officio*, for her leadership, wisdom, and support; Linda Adkins, Executive Assistant, Academic Affairs, for her assistance in making the work of the committee possible; and to all of the department heads, faculty, staff, and students without whose nominations and supporting documentation of the brilliant work of our colleagues would not receive the recognition they richly deserve.