

Annual Report – Distinguished Teaching Award Committee 2013-14

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 2013-14.

Committee Membership

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee for 2013-14 consisted of the following members:

John Gage, Co-Chair, English (term expires 2014)
Marian Smith, Music (term expires 2014)
Dan Close, Education (term expires 2015)
Gina Psaki, Romance Languages (term expires 2015)
Jennifer Reynolds, Law (term expires 2015)
Richard Taylor, Physics (term expires 2015)
Mark Unno, Co-Chair, Religious Studies (term expires 2015)
Barbara Altmann, convener, *ex-officio, non-voting*
Meg Mattson, staff, *ex-officio, non-voting*

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee is charged with “responsibility for the screening, investigation, and recommendation of candidates to receive any campus-wide teaching awards including, but not limited to, the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching,” and the newly created 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 newly established Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy receive a one-time stipend of \$4,000.

Committee members evaluate the nominations received and select up to seven recipients in total, up to three for the Ersted and Herman Distinguished Teaching Awards, and up to four for the new Herman Award for Excellence in 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 committee is provided administrative support through the Office of Academic Affairs.

Summary of Committee Activities

Nominations for the Ersted and Herman Awards were solicited during January with a posted deadline of January 31, 2014. We received a total of around 70 nominations.

Our first meeting was held on February 6 to review the charge and timeline for committee work and to undertake a preliminary assessment of nominations. After screening out ineligible nominations, Department Heads were asked to provide further information consisting of (1) a single page statement attesting to the nominee's appropriateness for the award, (2) a copy of the current CV, and (3) a concise description of teaching related activities with which the nominee has been involved. In addition, staff collected a list of each candidate's courses and enrollments during the three most recent years and quantitative course evaluations for that period.

The committee met again on March 10 after reviewing all files (which for the first time were made available to us electronically). At this point we drew up a shortlist of nineteen candidates, and requested further information about these individuals from Departments providing greater detail on three or four courses taught within the past three years (including course syllabi) and a description of instructional efforts outside the classroom. Written course evaluations were collected and provided by staff, including peer reviews as available, as well as grade distributions which we took seriously in the light of Department's formal statements of grading standards.

We met again on Friday April 22 after reviewing the further information. In this meeting we selected the final award recipients of the Ersted and two Herman category awards for 2014. Details on the three awards and this year's recipients can be viewed on the Academic Affairs website <http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/teachingawards>. We had a final meeting on Tuesday May 13 to review the selection process and consider recommendations for future years.

Award Recipients 2014

Louise Bishop, Honors College – Herman Award

David Blackwell, Geological Sciences – Herman Award

Daniel Tichenor, Political Science – Ersted Award

Rosario Murcia, Romance Languages - Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy

Suzanne Rowe, Law - Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy

Cynthia Herr, Education - Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy

Additional Committee Business and Recommendations

The Herman and Ersted endowments should be revisited in terms of the awards' correlation with available endowments to ensure that awards are both sustainable and that cash balances are spent down appropriately.

A significant point of discussion within the committee concerned the status of the newly created Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy. The University community including awardees should be aware that these are not secondary to the pre-existing Ersted and Herman awards for Distinguished Teaching, that this new category stands on its own and was created for recognition of specialized teaching excellence that in previous years might have gone unrecognized. To that end, two points were presented for future consideration: 1) The official name for the award and accompanying description might be fine-tuned to ensure proper understanding. For example, the name might be revised to, "Thomas F. Herman Award for Special Expertise in Pedagogy." 2) Just as the awardees for the traditional Herman Award for Distinguished Teaching receive a Tiffany Crystal Apple as an emblematic gift along with the official certificate, the awardees for the new Herman Award for Excellence in Pedagogy might also receive an emblematic gift, such as an inscribed piece of acrylic ware.

All but two committee members will be returning for 2014-15. New committee members should be selected as appropriate and a chair or co-chairs also named.

Last but not least, as Co-Chairs and on behalf of the Committee, we would like to give special thanks and our deepest appreciation to the following. Mr. Thomas F. Herman and the Ersted family endowment for their great contributions making these awards possible; President Michael Gottfredson and the Office of the President, for their support and encouragement; Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Barbara Altman, ex-officio, for her leadership, wisdom, and support; Ruth Keele, Assistant Vice Provost and Meg Mattson, Executive Assistant, Academic Affairs, for their leadership and tireless assistance in making the work of the Committee possible, a privilege, and an honor; and to all of the department heads, faculty, staff, and students without whose nominations and supporting documentation the brilliant work of our colleagues would not have received the recognition they richly deserve.