

THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2000-2001

Composed of five faculty and two student members during 2000-2001, the Committee on Teaching of the Berkeley Division, Academic Senate, University of California,

- oversaw the administration of the Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technologies Grant programs by the Offices of Student Life–Educational Development (SLED) and Media Services (OMS); \$51,053 was distributed to 72 Instructional Minigrant recipients and \$65,887 to 29 recipients of Classroom Technologies Grants;
- nominated four members of the faculty for approval by Divisional Council to receive Distinguished Teaching Awards: Sara L. Beckman (Haas School of Business), Carolyn R. Bertozzi (Department of Chemistry), Seda Chavdarian (Department of French), and Ronald Gronsky (Department of Materials Science and Engineering);
- nominated two programs for Educational Initiatives Awards: the College of Chemistry for its Digital Chem 1A Program and the Department of Anthropology for its Multimedia Authoring Center for Teaching in Anthropology (MACTiA);
- nominated Professor Martin V. Covington to become holder of the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education for the three years beginning July 1, 2001; this nomination was approved by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Chancellor.

In April 2001, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony and reception at which the recipients of 2001 Distinguished Teaching Awards, the Educational Initiatives Awards, and the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education were honored.

For 2001-2002 the Committee will continue to oversee the administration by SLED and Educational Technology Services (formerly the Office of Media Services) of the Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technology Grants programs; and it will again select nominees for Distinguished Teaching Awards, the Educational Initiatives Award, and the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ANNUAL REPORT: 2000-2001

The Committee on Teaching is broadly charged with

- 1) stimulating and aiding campus academic departments in strengthening their efforts to foster, recognize, and reward good teaching;
- 2) initiating, receiving, and funding proposals for teaching and instructional improvement and development;
- 3) undertaking activities to improve teaching and learning on the campus;
- 4) studying problems concerning the improvement of teaching on the campus and its recognition through promotion and tenure, and making appropriate recommendations to the Berkeley Division.

To fulfill these charges, the Committee disburses funds through a number of grant programs, recognizes excellence in teaching through the Distinguished Teaching and the Educational Initiatives Awards, hosts ceremonies to promote interest in and awareness of good teaching, co-sponsors workshops and discussions on teaching practices, and formulates policies to improve teaching and the climate for teaching on the Berkeley campus.

Grant Programs

In 2000-2001, the Committee on Teaching continued its oversight of the campus's Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technologies Grant programs. The Office of Student Life-Educational Development (SLED) and the Office of Media Services (OMS) administered the two grant programs without deadlines, accepting applications on a rolling basis between August 15, 2000, and May 18, 2001.

Instructional Minigrants provide rapid access to modest funds (up to \$1000) for small-scale projects to improve existing courses, develop new courses, evaluate instruction, and assess curricular needs. In 2000-2001, 77 applications requesting \$58,383 were received from faculty for course and curriculum improvements. 72 or 94%, of the applicants were awarded full or partial funding, with a total of \$51,053 distributed.

The *Classroom Technologies Grant* program was initiated to encourage Berkeley faculty to incorporate new, computer-based instructional technologies into their classes. The program provides access to modest amounts of funding (up to \$3500) for the specific purpose of introducing new technologies into the classroom. Projects that involve large lecture classes and courses with multiple sections are especially targeted. In 2000-2001, 40 applications seeking \$128,451 were submitted and 29, or 73%, of the applicants received full or partial funding, with a total of \$62,942 distributed. Additionally,

because the pool of available funds remaining at the very end of spring semester was limited, while the quality of grant applications was excellent, six Berkeley faculty who did not need funds immediately had their Classroom Technologies awards totaling \$12,000 deferred into the 2001-2002 academic year.

Distinguished Teaching Award

Each year, the Committee solicits and reviews nominations for faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards (DTA) for approval by the Divisional Council. This year the Committee nominated four members who subsequently received the award. Those four faculty members are:

- Sara L. Beckman, *Haas School of Business*
- Carolyn R. Bertozzi, *Department of Chemistry*
- Seda Chavdarian, *Department of French*
- Ronald Gronsky, *Department of Materials Science and Engineering*

The selection of DTA nominees is a two-stage process. In stage one, during fall semester, departments initiate nominations by submitting a brief nominating letter, a chronological list of courses taught during the last eight semesters of residence, a summary of teaching evaluations, and raw data from student evaluations in representative recent courses. Following a full review by the Committee, approximately half of the candidates are then selected for stage two. Additional documentation is required at this stage, and following a pre-arranged schedule, each finalist is observed in a classroom or lab setting by at least two members of the Committee on Teaching. The award recipients are announced later in the spring.

Educational Initiatives Award

In 2000-2001 the Committee on Teaching again participated in the selection of the recipient of the Educational Initiatives Award (EIA), which is given annually to a department, program, or unit in recognition of significant accomplishment in undergraduate education. For 2001, the Committee nominated two programs for the award: the College of Chemistry for its *Digital Chem 1A Program* and the Department of Anthropology for its *Multimedia Authoring Center for Teaching in Anthropology (MACTiA)*; funds were available for two awards because no award had been given in 1998. Divisional Council approved.

The Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education

The Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education is an award for ladder-rank Berkeley faculty who propose to develop new (possibly interdisciplinary) courses or to enhance the quality of already existing courses, thus improving undergraduate education on the Berkeley campus. The Presidential Chair is an endowed chair to which holders are appointed for three-year terms with up to \$30,000 per year provided to support the instructional initiatives of the Chair holder.

Normally, a holder of the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education is selected once every three years. However, because a series of untoward events had resulted in an exceptionally large unexpended balance in the Presidential Chair account, the Committee and the Office of the Chancellor agreed, following the selection of Professor Ruth Tringham of Anthropology as incoming chair for the three-year term beginning July 1, 1998, to select a new Presidential Chair each year until that large balance was significantly reduced. Thus, in the spring of 1999, Professors Fred Collignon (Department of City and Regional Planning) and Susan Schweik (Department of English) were selected as co-holders of an additional Presidential Chair, this one for the three-year period beginning July 1, 1999.

In 2000, however, no new Presidential Chair holder was selected. That year, only two proposals were submitted; and following its review, the Committee found both to be wanting. The Committee did suggest to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Christ that one of the two proposals would be acceptable if significant changes were made to the proposal by its authors, but she declined.

The campus was more fortunate this past year. Following a review of the proposals submitted, the Committee nominated Professor Martin V. Covington to become holder of the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education for the three years beginning July 1, 2001; this nomination was approved by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the Chancellor.

There is still a large unexpended balance in the Presidential Chair account. The Committee will need to address this issue again early in the 2001-2002 academic year.

Ceremonies and Events

On April 25, 2001, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony at Zellerbach Playhouse. At that ceremony, recipients of 2001 Distinguished Teaching Awards, the Educational Initiatives Awards, and the Presidential Chair were honored. The Committee hosted the reception that immediately followed the Teaching Awards ceremony, and the Chancellor jointly with the Office of Student Life—Educational Development hosted a dinner for recipients at the Faculty Club.

The Future

In 2001-2002 the Committee will continue to oversee the administration of the Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technology Grants programs; it will again select nominees for the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Educational Initiatives Award; and it will work to address the unexpended balance in the Presidential Chair account. Additionally, the Committee will examine the current level of financial awards for recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Educational Initiatives Award with an eye toward increasing the amounts of those awards.

The Committee on Teaching welcomes suggestions about its mission and activities from members of the campus community.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kern (French)
Joseph Kim (Undergraduate Student)
Richard K. Lyons (Haas School of Business)
Joe R. McBride (ESPM)
Deborah Nolan (Statistics)
Jasper Rine (Molecular and Cell Biology), Chair
Alan Yu (Graduate Student)