

THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2001-02

Composed of five faculty and two student members during 2001-2002, the Committee on Teaching of the Berkeley Division, Academic Senate, University of California,

- oversaw the administration of the Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technology Grant programs by the Office of Educational Development (OED) and Educational Technology Services (ETS); \$36,101 was distributed to 49 Instructional Minigrant recipients and \$74,097 to 25 recipients of Classroom Technology Grants;
- nominated five members of the faculty for approval by Divisional Council to receive Distinguished Teaching Awards: Tyrone B. Hayes (Integrative Biology), Usha R. Jain (South and Southeast Asian Studies), Jeffrey Knapp (English), Leslie V. Kurke (Classics & Comparative Literature), and Stephen C. Welter (Environmental Science Policy, and Management);
- chose not to recommend any of the nominated candidates for the Educational Initiatives Award;
- deferred issuing a call for proposals for an additional Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education pending a review of the Presidential Chair guidelines in consultation with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Christina Maslach;
- undertook a revision of the “teaching” section of the Bio-Bibliography form; the committee’s proposed revisions were reviewed and endorsed by Divisional Council (DIVCO) and forwarded to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for implementation;
- reviewed and endorsed with comments a proposal from the Budget and Interdepartmental Relations committee that all teaching evaluations should contain a single uniform question using a seven-point scale;
- reviewed and commented on a report to DIVCO by Philip Stark, Faculty Assistant on Educational Technology; and responded to a query from the Assistant Dean of the Haas School regarding the use of “suggested” or “typical” grade distributions in the merit/promotion review process.

In April 2002, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony and reception at which the recipients of 2002 Distinguished Teaching Awards were honored.

For 2002-2003 the Committee will continue to oversee the administration by OED and ETS of the Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technology Grants programs; and it will again solicit and select nominees for Distinguished Teaching Awards and the Educational Initiatives Award.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ANNUAL REPORT: 2001-2002

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 2001-02, the Committee on Teaching continued its oversight of the campus's Instructional Minigrant and Classroom Technologies Grant programs. The Office of Educational Development (OED) and Educational Technology Services (ETS) administered the two grant programs without deadlines, accepting applications on a rolling basis between August 15, 2001, and May 24, 2002.

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 2001-02, 49 applications requesting \$36,851 were received from faculty for course and curriculum improvements. 49 or 100%, of the applicants were awarded full or partial funding, with a total of \$36,101 distributed.

The *Classroom Technology 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 2001-02, 42 applications seeking \$122,908 were submitted and 25, or 60%, of the applicants received full or partial funding, with a total of \$74,097 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, three Berkeley faculty who did not need funds immediately had their Classroom Technologies awards totaling \$8700 deferred into the 2002-03 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:

- Tyrone B. Hayes, *Department of Integrative Biology*
- Usha R. Jain, *Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies*
- Jeffrey Knapp, *Department of English*
- Leslie V. Kurke, *Departments of Classics and Comparative Literature*
- Stephen G. Welter, *Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management*

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 2001-02 the Committee on Teaching again participated in the process to select a 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. However, because both the number of submissions was small and the quality of the proposals submitted was marginal, the Committee decided not to nominate a candidate for the Educational Initiatives award in 2002.

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 (the current holder of the Presidential Chair, Professor Martin V.

Covington of Psychology, began his three-year term on July 1, 2001). 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 in 1998 to select additional holders of the Presidential Chair each year until the large balance was significantly reduced.

Because the number of Presidential Chair nominations was very small during these interim years, and because of the pending budget shortfall, the Committee decided in Fall 2001 to defer issuing a call for proposals for an additional Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education pending a review of the Presidential Chair guidelines in consultation with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Christina Maslach.

There is still a large unexpended balance in the Presidential Chair account. The Committee will meet with Vice Provost Maslach to address this issue again early in the 2002-2003 academic year.

Ceremonies and Events

On April 30, 2002, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony at Zellerbach Playhouse. At that ceremony, recipients of 2002 Distinguished Teaching Awards were honored. The Committee hosted the reception that immediately followed the Teaching Awards ceremony, and the Chancellor jointly with the Office of Educational Development hosted a dinner for recipients at the Faculty Club.

The Future

In 2002-2003 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 began discussion of the 7-point scale used in student teaching evaluations, and expects both to continue the discussion and recommend a decision during the 2002-03 academic year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Kamrin (Graduate Student)
Richard G. Kern (French), Chair
Joseph Kim (Undergraduate Student)
Richard K. Lyons (Haas School of Business)
Deborah Nolan (Statistics)
Donald Olander (Nuclear Engineering)

Susan Ubbelohde (Architecture)