

THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2003-04

Composed of five faculty (six during spring semester) and two student members during 2003-04, the Committee on Teaching (COT) 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); \$41,135 was distributed to 65 Instructional Minigrant recipients and \$62,335 to 26 recipients of Classroom Technology Grants;
- nominated five members of the faculty for approval by Divisional Council to receive Distinguished Teaching Awards: *Michael Christ* (Mathematics), *Hubert Dreyfus* (Philosophy), *H. Mack Horton* (East Asian Languages & Cultures), *Robert Jacobsen* (Physics), and *Linda Williams* (Film Studies and Rhetoric);
- recommended the *Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching and Resource Center*, for the Educational Initiatives Award;
- chose not to recommend any applicant to be the new holder of the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education;
- co-sponsored with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, the Presidential Chair Fellows Program, a new faculty development program for both junior and senior faculty that began in Fall, 2003;
- reviewed and commented on the Budget Committee's (BIR) 11/13/03 request to examine whether cases for advancement and promotion should include the distribution of grades in courses taught by an instructor;
- continued its review of current teaching and course evaluation procedures and forms.

In April 2004, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony and reception at which the recipients of 2004 Distinguished Teaching Awards and the Educational Initiatives Award were honored.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ANNUAL REPORT: 2003-04

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 2003-04, 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, 2003, and May 21, 2004.

Overall, 86 awards totaling **\$103,470** were made to 83 faculty and staff members in 40 different departments or programs. Of that number, 26 awards totaling \$62,335 went to recipients of Classroom Technologies Grants and 65 awards totaling \$41,135 went to recipients of Instructional Minigrants. The overall acceptance rate for full and partial funding for these grant programs was 72.3% (\$103,470 of \$143,169 requested).

Distinguished Teaching Award

Each year, the Committee solicits and reviews nominations for faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards (DTA) for approval by the Divisional Council. Recipients receive a

\$10,000 award from the campus and a supplemental financial award from the Alumni Association. This year the Committee nominated five members who subsequently received the award. Those five faculty members are:

- Michael Christ, *Mathematics*
- Hubert Dreyfus, *Philosophy*
- H. Mack Horton, *East Asian Languages & Cultures*
- Robert Jacobsen, *Physics*
- Linda Williams, *Film Studies/Rhetoric*

Educational Initiatives Award

In 2003-04 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. Recipients receive a \$20,000 award from the campus. For the 2004 award, the Committee nominated the *Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching & Resource Center*. Divisional Council approved.

The Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education

The Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education is an endowed chair 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. Holders of the Presidential Chair are appointed for three-year terms and receive up to \$30,000 per year to support the Chair holder's instructional initiatives.

In 2004, however, no new Presidential Chair holder was selected. Only one proposal was submitted; and following a review, the Committee found it to be wanting.

Because the University is currently experiencing severe financial constraints, the search for a new holder of the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education has been deferred for 2005.

The Presidential Chair Fellows Program

The Presidential Chair Fellows program is a new faculty development effort on the Berkeley campus that offers ladder-rank Senate faculty a unique opportunity to simultaneously improve their teaching and enhance their career development. Using unexpended funds from the Presidential Chair account, and under the joint sponsorship of the Committee and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, the Fellows program in 2003-04 selected 13 Berkeley faculty members (six junior and seven senior faculty) for participation in a one-year series of workshops and seminars focused on both teaching and learning.

By linking those who are learning new roles and responsibilities with those who are striving to revitalize their careers, the program seeks both to engage faculty in critical reflection and analysis of their current and future teaching efforts and to foster a sense of collegiality and support among peers and across disciplines.

Sixteen (16) Berkeley faculty (six junior and ten senior faculty) have been selected as Presidential Chair Fellows for 2004-05, the second year of the program.

Ceremonies and Events

On April 27, 2004, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony at Zellerbach Playhouse. At that ceremony, recipients of 2004 Distinguished Teaching Awards and the Educational Initiatives Award 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 2004-05 the Committee will continue to oversee the administration of the teaching grants programs, select nominees for the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Educational Initiatives Award, and serve as co-sponsor of the Presidential Chair Fellows program. It will, as well, respond to requests from DIVCO and other Senate committees for comment and collaboration.

Finally, the Committee will continue its efforts to engage the campus in a review of the processes and procedures by which teaching is evaluated on the Berkeley campus.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Casamina (Undergraduate Student)
Kevis Goodman (English)
Claire Kramsch (German)
J. W. Morris, Jr. (Materials Science & Engineering), *Chair* (Spring '04)
Richard Muller (Physics)
Oliver O'Reilly (Mechanical Engineering)
Timothy Zimmerman (Graduate Student)
M. Susan Ubbelohde (Architecture), *Chair* (Fall '03)