

THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHING

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2004-05

Composed of five faculty and two student members during 2004-05, 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); \$37,676 was distributed to 53 Instructional Minigrant recipients and \$72,186 to 28 recipients of Classroom Technology Grants;
- nominated Professor *Kevis Goodman* of the Department of English for approval by Divisional Council to receive a Distinguished Teaching Award;
- recommended two programs for Educational Initiatives Awards – the University Library for the *Library Prize for Undergraduate Research* and the Lawrence Hall of Science for its program in *Communicating Sciences*;
- continued its co-sponsorship with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education of the *Presidential Chair Fellows Program*, a faculty development program for both junior and senior faculty that was initiated in Fall, 2003;
- reviewed and commented, per request from DIVCO, on the University's draft policy on use of recordings of course presentations;
- continued its review of current teaching and course evaluation procedures and forms; supported the Office of Educational Development's efforts to develop an online mid-semester evaluation program for interested faculty; and agreed favorably with the campus's general thrust to transition end-of-semester course evaluations to an online environment.

In April 2005, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony and reception at which the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award and the Educational Initiatives Awards were honored.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ANNUAL REPORT: 2004-05

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 2004-05, 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, 2004, and May 20, 2005.

Overall, 81 awards totaling **\$109,862** were made to 74 faculty and staff members in 39 different departments or programs. Of that number, 28 awards totaling \$72,186 went to recipients of Classroom Technologies Grants and 53 awards totaling \$37,676 went to recipients of Instructional Minigrants. The overall acceptance rate for full and partial funding for these grant programs was 84% (\$109,862 of \$130,848 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 Professor Kevis Goodman of English for an award. Divisional Council approved.

Educational Initiatives Award

In 2004-05 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 2005, the Committee nominated two programs to receive separate Educational Initiative Awards – the University Library for the *Library Prize for Undergraduate Research* and the Lawrence Hall of Science for its program in *Communicating Sciences*. Divisional Council approved.

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 2004-05 selected 16 Berkeley faculty members (six junior and ten senior faculty) for participation in the year-long 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.

Presidential Chair Fellows for 2005-06, the third year of the program, will be selected after July 1, 2005.

Ceremonies and Events

On April 21, 2005, the Committee again hosted the campus Teaching Awards ceremony at the Morrison Library. At that ceremony, recipients of the 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award and the Educational Initiatives Awards were honored. Following the ceremony, the Chancellor jointly with the Office of Educational Development hosted a dinner for recipients at the Alumni House.

The Future

In 2005-06 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.

A principal concern for the Committee at present is the steeply decreasing number of faculty being nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award. The Committee is aware that the nomination process, in an attempt to be thorough and pointed, is taxing to departments and the faculty involved. The Committee will be reviewing its procedures in this regard, and will seek ways both to encourage departments to nominate members of their faculties and to assist departments with the nomination process in whatever way it can.

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. It strongly supports the efforts of the Office of Educational Development to develop a mid-semester evaluation program, and it is encouraged by the initial efforts of the Division of Undergraduate Education to move the current paper-based course evaluation system to an online environment. The Committee believes that the period of transition from one mode to another is an ideal time to undertake a review of departments' current course evaluation forms and questions.

Similarly, the Committee will be watching as the campus seeks to streamline the academic personnel review process. The Committee undertook a revision of the teaching section of the Annual Bio-Bibliography form a few years ago, and it is intent on making sure that the changes incorporated in that revision are carried over into the streamlined review process.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elad Harel (Graduate Student)
Claire Kramsch (German)
Kathleen McCarthy (Classics/Comparative Literature)
J. W. Morris, Jr. (Materials Science & Engineering), *Chair*
Jasper Rine (Molecular & Cell Biology)
Oliver O'Reilly (Mechanical Engineering)
Laura Safdie (Undergraduate Student)