

2003-2004 Annual Report Committee on Faculty Awards

In fulfilling its charge as established in the by-laws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Faculty Awards carried out the following activities.

Although the committee acts only in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor in submitting nominees of faculty members as potential recipients of external awards, (per Academic Senate by-laws), the FAC launched a new approach to generating greater recognition and rewards for Berkeley faculty. Working with the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) staff, the process for handling external awards (including honors and prizes) was restructured and shifted to the Senate office. The revised process is mindful of the interests of both the FAC and the VCR. Reinvigorating the FAC role presented an opportunity to strengthen the partnership inherent in shared governance between the Senate and the administration.

Reaching out to individual departments, schools, and research units, the committee solicited the help of deans, directors, and chairs asking that they identify a liaison - perhaps a distinguished senior or emeritus professor - to work with the committee. Through this network, the FAC asks their assistance in identifying potential award/honor nominees in the applicable disciplinary area.

The Committee is gratified to report that its efforts resulted in three nominations for prestigious prizes: the Maison de la Chimie Foundation Prize; the 2004 Sackler Prize in Physical Sciences; and, the Sheikh Hamdan Award for Medical Research Excellence.

The Committee proposed, and the Division approved, a by-laws change delegating the selection of nominees of faculty members as potential recipients of external teaching awards to the Senate Committee on Teaching.

The Divisional Council approved the Berkeley Faculty Service Award, developed in conjunction with the Committee on Committees, in late spring. The award will be given to a faculty member who has contributed exceptional and dedicated service to the Berkeley campus over the recipient's career, and who has had a lasting and significant impact on the academic excellence of the campus community.

The Faculty Awards Committee is responsible for nominating an individual for the Clark Kerr Award. This year, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger was selected as the recipient.

In 2004-05, the Committee looks forward to building on the objectives put in place during the current year.