



May 3, 2018

## **THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHING REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2017-2018**

This Committee has at least five Senate members, of which a minimum of two should be past recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award, and two student members, one undergraduate and one graduate.

### **Duties**

1. Encourage and aid departments to strengthen their efforts to foster, recognize, and reward good teaching;
2. Nominate members of the Faculty for approval by the Divisional Council to receive Distinguished Teaching Awards and other awards as appropriate. Upon request from the Chancellor or members of the Chancellor's cabinet, solicit and submit nominations of faculty members as potential recipients of external awards for teaching.
3. Undertake special activities to improve teaching and learning on campus.
4. Study issues concerning teaching on the campus and make recommendations to the Berkeley Division.

To fulfill these charges, the Committee recognizes excellence in teaching through the Distinguished Teaching Awards, co-hosts and curates events to promote interest in and awareness of effective teaching, co-sponsors workshops and discussions on teaching practices, consults on a number of grant programs, and formulates recommendations to campus practices and policies to improve teaching and the climate for teaching on the Berkeley campus.

This year, the committee's work was broken down into two areas - the Distinguished Teaching Award selection process and teaching-related issues on campus. These areas included:

1. Sponsoring a new One Day Teaching Forum before the start of the fall 2018 semester with breakout sessions for individual help on topics such as course evaluations, peer observations of teaching, bCourses resources, textbook adoptions, DSP resources, SIS grades/enrollment, student data security, and Open Educational Resources;

2. Revising the DTA eligibility guidelines to account for Active Service Modified Duty status in considering the number of semesters to count as “in residence” during the past eight semesters;
3. Looking closely at student course evaluations and the online service with guest Miles Lincoln, Service Lead from ETS for Course Evaluations. The discussion focused on providing feedback and recommendations on the course evaluations service and process to ensure alignment with the campus’ 1987 Evaluation of Teaching Policy, and explore ways to encourage increasing response rate and quality. Several of the committee recommendations and feedback are already being implemented by Mr. Lincoln and the service (e.g., de-aggregated reports to instructors, information about possible incentives for response rate/quality posted online for instructors). The committee will continue this discussion as the course evaluation service continues to be refined, and campus continues to refine the evaluation of teaching process.

### **Distinguished Teaching Award**

Each year, the Committee solicits and reviews nominations for faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards (DTA) for approval by the Divisional Council. Four faculty members were selected this year: John DeNero (EECS), Mary Kelsey (Sociology), Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton (Psychology), and Panos Patatoukas (Business).

The selection of DTA recipients is a two-stage process. In stage one, during the 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 1/3-1/4 of the candidates are then advanced to stage two. Additional documentation is required at this stage, and following a prearranged 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 in the March after formal ratification from DIVCO.

### **Ceremonies and Events**

On April 18, 2018, the Committee again hosted the campus Distinguished Teaching Award ceremony at Sibley Auditorium. At that ceremony, recipients of 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award were honored. The Committee hosted the reception that immediately followed the Teaching Award ceremony. The Committee also participated in the invite-only Banquet sponsored by Chancellor Christ and the Academic Senate, and organized by University Development and Alumni Relations.

### **Dialogues: A Colloquium Series on Teaching**

Co-sponsored with the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Academic Innovation Studio, a series of six campus dialogues around important teaching and learning issues were held throughout the academic year. Topics included a focus on increasing response rates in course

evaluations, extending learning beyond the classroom, redefining the college lecture, designing successful team projects, and managing logistics and learning in large enrollment courses. Each Dialogue featured a panel of faculty presenters, and time devoted to faculty-led discussion of each teaching topic. COT Chair O'Reilly served as the moderator for the course evaluations Dialogue.

### **Participation/ Interaction with other Committees.**

IT Governance Committee - Committee representative sits on the campus IT Governance Committee that is intended to facilitate collaboration among campus leadership in the prioritization, funding, design and use of IT to ensure cost effective support of UC Berkeley's teaching, learning, research and administrative strategic priorities. Committee meets twice a year for 2 hours each meeting.

Campus Committee on Classroom Policy and Management (CCCPM) – Committee representative sits on CCCPM that oversees and approves policy issues related to classroom use, scheduling, and management. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the long-range plan for classrooms, recovery of classroom facilities following major disasters, summer use, construction and design standards for classrooms, renovation plans, and instructional technology in classrooms. Committee meets three times a year for 2 hours each meeting.

### **Grant Programs**

In 2017-2018, the Committee on Teaching continued to provide consultation as needed on the campus Instructional Improvement Grant program. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) administers the grant program without deadlines, accepting applications on a rolling basis between August 11 and May 4.

*Instructional Improvement Grants* provide rapid access to modest funds (up to \$3000) for small-scale projects to improve existing courses, develop new courses, evaluate instruction, and assess curricular needs. In 2017-18, 20 proposals were funded for a total of \$48,454.36.

### **The Future**

In 2018-2019 the Committee will again select recipients for the Distinguished Teaching Award (with formal endorsement from DIVCO); it will continue to consult as needed on the administration of the Instructional Improvement Grant program, as requested by the CTL.

The Committee also intends to continue co-sponsoring teaching related events (like Dialogues and a new fall One Day Teaching Forum), as well as work related to its interest in improving the quality of evaluating teaching effectiveness across campus.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver O'Reilly, Mechanical Engineering (Chair)  
Terri Bimes, Political Science  
Micah Brush, Physics (Graduate Student)  
Serena Chen, Psychology  
Laurent El Ghaoui, EECS and IEOR  
Charlotte Hayward, Political Science (Undergraduate Student)  
Line Mikkelsen, Linguistics  
Anne Joseph O'Connell, Law  
Debarati Sanyal, French  
K. Peter Vollhardt, Chemistry  
Richard Freishtat, Staff Representative (Center for Teaching and Learning)