



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee of Faculty Council

From: Lisa Romkey
Chair, Teaching Methods and Resources Committee

Date: October 25, 2012 for November 29, 2012 Faculty Council Meeting

Re: **Proposal for Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award**

REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members voting to carry).

BACKGROUND

The Faculty currently offers three teaching awards, managed by the Teaching Methods and Resources Committee: the Faculty Teaching Assistant Award, the Early Career Teaching Award and the Faculty Teaching Award. The Early Career Teaching Award is available to those within their first 5 years of teaching, and the Faculty Teaching Award is available to all others in the Faculty. However, there is a gap in recognizing those who have demonstrated excellence in teaching in the Faculty over a sustained period of time.

The addition of this award will provide further recognition of excellence in teaching in the Faculty, and will further support the development of nominations for university-wide and national teaching awards.

PROPOSAL/MOTION

“THAT the Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award, as outlined in the attached proposal, be established.”



SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

1. Eligibility

The Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award is open to any full time staff member who:

- a. Has taught undergraduate Engineering students for at least fifteen years at the University of Toronto
- b. Has been a previous recipient of, or nominee for the Early Career Teaching Award, Faculty Teaching Award or other form of recognition of teaching excellence within the home department, Faculty, university or greater scholarly community
- c. Has previously not won this award

2. Nomination Guidelines

This award is bestowed on exceptional individuals who in the course of their career meet **a plurality** of the nomination criteria outlined below. Individuals nominated for the Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award will be assessed on the basis of meeting criteria outlined in the following areas of undergraduate teaching:

- Exceptional continuous classroom instruction, including lecturing, small-group teaching, and laboratory instruction in a plurality of courses with broad and diverse content
- Consultation with students outside of class, including individual advising, mentoring, and thesis supervision
- Sustained development and use of innovative teaching methods and instructional course materials via multiple methodologies
- Demonstrated commitment to their own lifelong professional development in teaching
- Demonstrated exceptional leadership ability to inspire all educators within the Faculty while serving as a champion / visionary to advance student learning and achievement
- Demonstration of a significant and lasting impact on student learning within their Department and within the Faculty through course, curriculum, laboratory and facilities development
- Demonstrated innovation in improving the learning experience of under-represented student groups
- Demonstrated continued service to teaching/learning profession through participation and leadership in external professional or societal organizations
- Publication of original work, through any medium including presentations at professional meetings, that enhances the engineering education process or adds value to teaching methodology literature

- Contributions to graduate student teaching will also be considered
- Past award will be taken into account as evidence of excellence

Evidence of outstanding performance in one or more of the above categories will be derived from a number of different sources including:

- Testimonial letters from students, alumni, fellow faculty members or administrators
- Results of teaching evaluations
- Publications specifically directed at teaching/learning methodologies
- Objective measures of student learning
- A statement outlining the contributions made to teaching
- Statement by External Professional Organizations and Societies

3. Supporting Documentation

All documentation should be provided electronically in the form of one or more clearly labelled pdf or Word documents

Main Documents:

1. Cover letter, written by the chair of the nominee's department. This letter should serve as the nomination letter, and could explicitly address the following questions:
 - a. How has the candidate's teaching excellence impacted the department, the Faculty and/or the University?
 - b. What items distinguish the sustained excellence of the candidate as a leader, teacher, mentor and role model relative to their peers?
2. Teaching CV, which shall include the nominee's educational background, employment history, courses taught, teaching awards received and any activity related to teaching and learning. Do NOT include research grants, papers published, conferences attended or other research-related activities UNLESS they pertain to teaching and learning related scholarship.
3. Statement of Philosophy and Practice (2-3 pages)
 - a. The nominee's beliefs about teaching and learning, and how these beliefs have continuously evolved through their teaching career
 - b. This statement, written by the nominee, could include between 3 and 5 "belief statements" about teaching and learning, each with specific examples of the nominee's innovation and leadership in teaching practice
 - c. Some questions to consider when writing the statement:
 - i. What do you believe about your students and the way they learn?
 - ii. What do you believe about teachers and the role they serve?

- iii. What do you want students to learn?
- iv. What do you believe is necessary for learning to occur?
 - v. What hurdles are there to learning? What do you believe is necessary to overcome these hurdles?
- vi. What is it that you do in your teaching that is innovative?
- vii. What value do you add?
- viii. What are your distinguishing characteristics?
 - ix. What impact has your teaching had on student learning across the Faculty?
 - x. How do you practice your philosophy in the classroom?
 - xi. How is your choice of instructional mode, approach to students and course design, choice of teaching projects and development of materials, resources and assessment tied to your beliefs?
 - xii. How do you approach students with different learning styles, goals or academic background?

Optional: Statement of Professional Development and Special Projects (1-2 pages)

- 4. This statement allows the nominee to discuss professional development and special projects related to teaching and learning. The following list provides some examples of items to discuss, however the list is not exhaustive:
 - a. Special contributions to course design or course materials
 - b. Participation on committees or working groups related to curriculum, teaching and learning
 - c. Mentorship of students and student groups
 - d. Research and publications in teaching and learning
 - e. Professional development related to teaching and learning, such as
 - f. seminars, courses or conferences attended
 - g. Seminars, workshops or other events on teaching and learning topics run by the nominee
 - h. Mentorship of others in their teaching development
 - i. Impact outside of the academy (such as community-based teaching)
 - j. Public education projects and service in professional or educational societies

Appendices: (The total page count for all Appendices must not exceed 25 pages)

5. Summary table of teaching evaluation data (template provided, use is required). Nominating department should include data from all courses taught in the nominee's career at the University of Toronto, and must include data from all relevant courses taught in the last 10-20 years
6. Summary/explanation of evaluation data (1 page maximum, optional)
 - This summary can include an explanation of any anomalies, or the evaluation data as a whole (or both)
7. Letters of support from students or former students. Focus should be on quality of letters, rather than quantity. Normally, 5-10 letters are included. (required)
8. Letters of support from colleagues (recommended)
9. Teaching materials: 2-3 examples, which may include course syllabi, assignment instructions, a sample lecture, or other course materials (audio, video, digital media, applications, etc.) to support the Statement of Philosophy and Practice. (recommended)
10. Special project samples: this may include items such as a lab manual, a curriculum document, a textbook, a research paper on a teaching & learning related subject, a workshop outline or any other materials representing work from the statement of professional development & special projects (optional)

4. Selection Procedure

- (a) Directors and Chairs of departments, divisions, programs and institutes, at their discretion, may nominate one candidate for the award. It is assumed that departmental and divisional chairs will consult with their students, Faculty and alumni before deciding upon their nominee.
- (b) The nominations will be considered by the Committee on Teaching Methods and Resources and a recommendation forwarded to the Dean, who shall approve the final award.
- (c) The Committee reserves the right to decline nominating a candidate in a given year.