

**Faculty Senate - Teaching / Learning Council
Annual Report for 2014-2015 Academic Year**

**Submitted by Jennifer Richards,
Co-Chairs – Teaching / Learning Council**

The Teaching / Learning Council (TLC) of the Faculty Senate completed two major projects for the 2014 – 2015 academic year. Those two projects, which are standard TLC activities included: solicitation and evaluation of the nominees for the Chancellor's Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award and solicitation and evaluation of the nominees for the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award. These activities were completed and submitted to the Chancellor (Teaching Award and Advising Awards evaluations) for final determination of 2014 – 2015 recipients.

In addition, the TLC was asked to address issues concerning the process for evaluating Chancellor's Excellence in Advising Award nominees. The TLC recommended that two awards should be given to college advisors/advising administrators for undergraduate advising and two awards to faculty for either undergraduate advising or graduate mentoring for a total of four awards. It was also recommended that we add one more professional college advisor/advising administrator to the selection committee from the pool of previous professional advising award recipients. The previous committees have consisted primarily of faculty. These recommendations were approved by the Chancellor. The Advising Nomination materials were revised to clearly reflect these changes. The professional college advisor/advising administrator is defined as staff serving within one of the nine colleges' advising centers/offices whose primary role is undergraduate advising or leading undergraduate college-based advising programs. To address nominee qualifications issues the academic support/enhancement staff are not eligible for this particular award.

The Excellence in Teaching, Undergraduate Advising, and Graduate Advising and Mentoring Award processes were established through solicitation of nominees via a web-based method directed to the overall university community. Over 300 nominations were submitted (a number very consistent with the previous year) for these awards. From the nominations received, each "qualifying" nominee (a few did not qualify due to recent recognition of a Chancellor's Award) was contacted for additional information. Two subgroup teams of the TLC were formed to review the documentation of nominators, and the nominees (no members of the subgroups / team could be nominees for the appropriate award). Each team then ranked the nominees and decided which nominees should be interviewed for consideration of the Advising Awards, or observed for consideration of the Teaching Award. The recipients of the 2014 Excellence in Graduate and Undergraduate Advising Mentoring and 2014 Excellence in Teaching Awards were announced at the Chancellor's Spring Banquet. They include:

Laura Stetler – EHHS – Graduate and Undergraduate Mentoring and Advising
Mark Willoughby – Undergraduate Programs– Graduate and Undergraduate Mentoring and Advising

Dr. Reinbolt – Mech, Aero, and Biomed. Engineering– Graduate and Undergraduate Mentoring and Advising

Sebastian Dubreil – Modern Foreign Language– Graduate and Undergraduate Mentoring and Advising

Jaye Theil - College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Excellence in Teaching

Hahn Choo - College of Engineering - Excellence in Teaching

Michelle Brown - College of Arts and Science - Excellence in Teaching

Terry Ishitani - College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences – Excellence in Teaching

In the fall, the TLC was asked to provide recommendation to Dr. John Zomchick related to producing departmental means for SAIS scores. After discussing Dr. Zomchick’s request to consider the issue of comparative departmental means for SAIS reports, the Teaching and Learning Council provided the following recommendations:

- Departmental means should be calculated and available to *all faculty and administrators*.
- Access to departmental means should be limited to faculty, administration, and staff with valid UT NetIDs (i.e. not publically available) and should require a log-in step (as is currently required to access individual SAIS reports)
- Departmental, College, and University means should also include standard deviation

Below are the 2013 – 2014 members of the Teaching / Learning Council. Without the hard work of these individuals, the TLC annual tasks could not be accomplished.

First Name	Last Name	Role	University Unit
Jennifer	Richards	Chair / Faculty	Food Science
Ruth	Darling	ex officio	Administration
Joy	DeSensi	ex officio	Administration
Sally	McMillan	ex officio	Administration
Elizabeth	Pemberton	ex officio	Administration
Joanne	Hall	ex officio	Administration
Taimi	Olsen	ex officio	Administration
Mary	Albrecht	Administration	SACS Accreditation
Mary Lynn	Brown	Faculty	College of Nursing
Margaret	Casado	Faculty	Library
Sebastian	Dubreil	Faculty	Modern and Foreign Languages
Noriko	Horiguchi	Faculty	Modern and Foreign Languages
Sally	Hunter	Faculty	Child & Family Studies
William	Jennings	Faculty	Political Science
Brian	Lancaster	Faculty	Air force and Aerospace Studies
Amadou	Sall	Faculty	African Studies
Mark	Hector	Faculty	Psychology
Christy	Hickman	Faculty	College of Social Work
Laurie	Knox	Faculty	English
Samantha	Murphy	Faculty	English

Karin	Pringle	Faculty	Mathematics
Pat	Rutenberg	Faculty	History
Kelly	Rooker	Student	Graduate School
Rachel	Fovargue	Student	Graduate School

Issues to consider for next year:

With the launch of the Quality Enhancement Plan focused on Experiential Learning, the TLC is positioned to be champion this effort and serve as campus leaders. However, our ability to do so is limited by the time required to solicit and review nominations, interview, observe, and select finalists for the Chancellor's Awards. We made tremendous efforts this year to streamline the process, which did make a difference, however this is still a monumental task. It is worth a discussion to consider if the process of making recommendations for this award could be handled through another avenue (perhaps special task forces could be established of prominent teachers and advisors from across campus?) so that the TLC can take a more active role in shaping teaching and learning on campus.