

University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
Teaching and Learning Council End of the Year Report, 2017-2018
Samantha Murphy and Patricia Rutenberg, Co-Chairs

The Teaching and Learning Council's major task is to oversee the nominations and selection of the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching and Advising awards. Over fifty faculty were nominated for the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Awards; ten faculty members were chosen as finalists, and four were chosen as winners. All nominees submitted a portfolio containing a CV, a statement of teaching philosophy, and a representative syllabus. Each finalist participated in three classroom observations, provided a syllabus and sample assignment for the observed class, and provided the names of students who the observers could contact. It was challenging to winnow the pool down to the four winners, as each finalist is an outstanding teacher. The names and biographies of our chosen faculty winners were forwarded to the Chancellor's Office in March, and the winners were publically announced at the Chancellor's banquet in April.

The Teaching and Learning Council also oversaw the selection of the recipients of the Chancellor's Excellence in Advising awards. We received 49 nominations, and the selection committee (composed of prior winners) processed nomination materials and interviewed the ten finalists. The committee recommended the four winners and sent the appropriate biographical materials to the Chancellor's office in early March. These winners were publically announced at the Chancellor's banquet.

In addition, Samantha Murphy researched diversity and inclusion in First Year Studies courses. She found that FYS 101 has broad goals for its curriculum, and they have resources already available for teaching diversity. We could possibly ask for those lessons to be moved from "strongly encouraged" to "required" status. One week is specifically set aside for teaching diversity. We could also find a way to encourage instructors to add diversity into other weeks' topics (weeks 2 and 12 are the most obvious) and/or to include diversity education in their 'free' week or weeks (13, 14, 15).

In a follow-up on a discussion concerning the possibility of creating a new Diversity and Inclusion award, Pat Rutenberg reviewed the end of the year awards to determine whether the university recognized diversity and inclusion in its existing awards. Pat, Samantha, and Faculty Senate President Beauvais Lyon concurred that the existing awards addressed diversity and inclusion, and that we would promote the existing awards.

Pat Rutenberg met with Karen Sullivan-Vance, Associate Vice Provost of Student Success, to discuss ways in which the Faculty Senate Teaching and Learning Council and the Student Success office could work together. Pat invited Karen to make a presentation to the Faculty Senate, which will take place next year. Samantha and Pat attended the Student Success Summit in December and the follow-up meeting in April.

Recommendations for the 2018-2019 Teaching and Learning Council goals include the creation of a subcommittee to oversee the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching and Advising awards. This will allow the Teaching and Learning Council the time to work on the development of strategies with the Student Success office to promote teaching and learning excellence.