



**J. Michael Geringer, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Strategy and International Business**  
**Phone: 805.756.1755 Cell: 805.459.1383 email: jmichaelgeringer@yahoo.com**

11 December 2008

TO: Academic Senate

FROM: Mike Geringer, Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Committee

RE: Report for Fall Quarter, 2008, of the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee of the Academic Senate

The bulk of the DTA committee's work happens in Winter and Spring quarters, so we met once during fall quarter, on Friday, 3 October, 2008. The focus of this initial meeting was to have members meet each other, review the newly revised mandate of the committee, and come to agreement on a proposed process for the committee's work this year. After agreeing to a slightly modified process from prior years, we submitted this proposal to the Executive Committee for its approval. Chair Geringer then met with the Executive Committee at its 14 October meeting and had the process approved at that time.

At the committee meeting, members were introduced and the mandate of the committee was discussed, especially in light of the revised mandate for the committee and issues raised by past Senate Chair Giberti. The members reviewed the DTA process, both historically and as proposed for the 2008-2009 academic year. We agreed to again have a 6-week nomination process (October 27-December 5), with all nominations being made electronically. We agreed to accept all nominations from qualified nominators (current and past students), even if some requested information was missing from the nomination materials, in order to increase the data available for our deliberations. We agreed on elements of an advertisement process to enhance broad exposure for the award. Committee Chair Geringer and Academic Senate Administrative Assistant Gladys Gregory subsequently collaborated to ensure that electronic, print and other agreed modes of promotion were implemented in an effective and timely manner. Geringer circulated a revised letter to be sent to DTA finalists in January. DTA committee members reviewed and commented on these drafts and they are now prepared for use subsequent to our meeting to select Finalists, tentatively scheduled for Thursday of the first week of Winter quarter. The committee also agreed on a basic process for the remainder of the DTA nomination, review, and recommendation activities. A description of the Committee's criteria and process has now been posted to the Academic Senate's website. Subsequent to the meeting, a second ASI representative has been added to the committee, making an overall committee of 8 members. Only 2 of these members have previously served on the DTA, so there is a sharp learning curve ahead for the new members.

Regarding committee composition and process, the participation of students on the committee remains a promising enhancement. In the recent past, it had proven difficult to obtain willing, participating student volunteers to serve on the committee. However, we had a positive experience with two outstanding representatives of ASI in 2004-2005, one of two representatives in 2005-2006, both representatives each of the past 2 years, and the participation of two more students in this year's process. It appears that priority registration status is helping to attract and retain good students for this time-consuming committee (the time commitment in Winter and Spring quarters for observations of award

finalists and meetings involves a minimum of 30 to 40 hours of time committed to this process). The input of the students has been highly valuable, and their role is particularly appropriate in this student-nominated award for teaching excellence.

The committee has been charged with reviewing the process and criteria employed in its activities. Due to the nature of 6 of 8 members being new to the committee and process, it has been decided that discussion of process modifications is best delayed until Spring quarter, 2009, once members have had an opportunity to participate more fully in the process and have a basis for making informed assessments and input.

Committee members were to pick up the package of nomination materials from Gladys Gregory beginning on Monday 8 December. We received 298 electronic nominations this year (versus 406 last year), including 78 eligible and valid nominations (versus 120 last year). Last year, it appeared that our active promotional campaign across campus during Fall quarter 2007 may have had a positive impact on nominations. This year, however, nominations appeared to be negatively impacted by two events: (1) the Distinguished Scholarship Award positioned its calls for nominations adjacent to our own in places such as the Cal Poly Report and adopted a similar time frame for nominations, creating some confusion among students as to which program to nominate faculty for, and (2) the website link for DTA nominations experienced a technical problem that took ITS approximately 2 weeks to resolve, causing some frustration among students and alumni attempting to nominate faculty and probably reducing the number of nominations ultimately received.

Despite these issues, nominations were received for qualified faculty from all 7 academic colleges. The committee members will review nomination materials during the break period and meet during the first week of Winter quarter to select Finalists for this academic year's DTA process. At that time, we will also begin discussion of the reassessment process to use in preparing the proposed committee process and criteria to be used by the DTA in subsequent years.