

# CAL POLY

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December 16, 2013

To: Academic Senate

From: Nanine Van Draanen, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry  
Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2013-14

Re: Report for Fall Quarter, 2013  
Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee of the Academic Senate

Fall quarter is essentially a planning quarter for the Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA) Committee. During this time period, Committee Chair Nanine Van Draanen conferred with Academic Senate Administrative Assistant Gladys Gregory, and HRIS analysts Sharon Chan to develop a timeline and eligibility requirements. Announcements and solicitations for nominations were also developed in conjunction with Gladys Gregory.

The committee met once during Fall Quarter, on November 12, 2013. The meeting included myself, Lee Burgunder; Umut Toker; Shelly Hurt; Rebecca Rogers; and David Juarez. Absent was Wayne Howard, who will not be participating in this year's selection process because he will be in Australia for winter quarter. There is currently no representative from CENG or PCS. The mandate of the committee was presented, and the process for selection of finalists and awardees was discussed. The basic norms by which the committee would operate were also discussed. A paperless workflow was agreed upon, as in years past. As of the meeting date, only 17 eligible nominations had been received. The committee discussed ways to increase the nominations, and ASI member David Juarez suggested posting to the ASI Facebook. This idea was enthusiastically received. David proposed the following language:

"Cal Poly Students!

Have you had a professor that kept you coming back to lecture day after day? Have you had a professor that had the ability to clarify a topic you had been struggling on for days, within one short office hour? If you can think of a professor that has gone above and beyond in aiding you in your academic career here at Cal Poly, give them some recognition and nominate them for the Distinguished Teaching Award!

Nominations are open until December 2nd and can be completed at  
<http://www.academicssenate.calpoly.edu/content/dta>

Show your professors some love; submit a nomination today! "

This was approved via email and David completed the posting.

Gladys Gregory requested a statement of purpose for the Distinguished Teaching Award to be used on the website. The committee collaborated to complete the following statement:

“The Distinguished Teaching Award was established to recognize faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching at Cal Poly. Given the mission of the University, this prestigious award represents an enormous honor to those selected to receive it. The award is especially significant since only students and alumni – those who have been touched by the faculty – are eligible to submit nominations. The rigorous evaluation process is conducted by peer faculty members and is based on reviews of written documentation and extensive in-class visitations. The University takes great pride in thanking award winners at several important public events, highlighting the crucial role that great teaching plays at Cal Poly.”

As of the close of the nomination window, a total of 119 nominations were received, of which 46 were for eligible faculty; of those, 28 represented unique faculty members. Eligible faculty members from every college were nominated.

Two additional committee members were solicited and approval for their membership is expected December 18.

The digital package of nominations was sent to the committee member December 16. The committee members will review nomination materials during the break period and will meet during the first week of winter quarter 2014 to select finalists for the 2013-14 academic year award. The intensive process of class visitations will occur during the last five weeks of Winter quarter and the first five weeks of Spring quarter of 2014.