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TO: Academic Senate

FROM: Mike Geringer, Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2007-2008

RE: Report for Winter Quarter, 2008, of the Distinguished Teaching Award Committee of the Academic Senate

The bulk of the Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA) committee's work happens in Winter and Spring quarters in the form of individual visitation of each of the committee members to the classes of each of the award finalists, so we met once as a committee during Winter quarter, on Friday, January 11, 2008. As requested, Chair Geringer also met with the Academic Senate's Executive Committee during Winter Quarter to review the committee's activities.

The Fall Quarter 2007 nomination process for the DTA award yielded 263 electronic nominations this year (versus 243 last year), including 120 eligible and valid nominations (versus only 75 last year), so it appears that the DTA committee's active promotional campaign across campus during Fall quarter 2007 may have had a positive impact on nominations. Nominations were received for qualified faculty from all 7 academic colleges. All of these nominations were received electronically.

Prior to our January meeting, we received a packet of nomination materials for each of the eligible candidates. Each committee member diligently read and evaluated each of the candidates during the holiday break. Each member also prepared his or her own tentative categorization of candidates based on their perception of the most deserving candidates, in order to facilitate discussion of the large pool of nominees during our meeting. During the DTA committee's meeting, we spent much time discussing candidates and were able to reach consensus on a list of 9 Finalists and 2 Alternates that we felt evidenced superior merit for the award (Alternates were very highly rated candidates who could provide backup assurance in case any of the initial Finalists could not or would not participate in the DTA process). Each of CAGR, CLA, CAED, CSM, COE, CENG, and CBUS were represented with at least one Finalist. Chairperson Geringer then contacted each of the Finalists by both electronic and hard copy means, congratulating them on being a Finalist, advising them of the timeline and guidelines for the award review process, and specifying materials that the Finalist would need to provide to the

committee members in order to allow the process to move forward. All of the Finalists agreed to participate in the process, so no Alternates were required.

Materials were received from all 9 Finalists by the deadline of Thursday, January 31. All of the Finalists were teaching during Winter quarter, so we had a pool of 9 Finalists to visit during the present quarter. One of the Finalists will be without a teaching assignment in Spring quarter, so we scheduled extra class visitations with that candidate during Winter quarter. I have contacted all Finalists with information requests for Spring quarter teaching activities, and we expect a pool of 8 Finalists during our Spring visitations. Several Finalists contacted Chairperson Geringer or our talented and helpful Senate administrator, Gladys Gregory, with questions regarding the DTA process, and these queries were resolved in a timely manner.

Visitations to classes of the Finalists commenced on Monday, February 4. A few changes in classroom visitation schedules have occurred due to course and instructor factors, but overall there have been no reports of significant difficulties with the classroom visitation and evaluation process.

Unfortunately, during the middle of Winter quarter, one of our members (Professor Craig Russell) had to discontinue his active involvement in our committee's efforts due to medical conditions. His presence is greatly missed and we wish him a rapid return to full health. Due to the late timing of this unfortunate event, we were not able to replace Professor Russell on the committee and we have proceeded as a body of 4 faculty and 2 ASI student representatives.

The committee will be continuing visitations through the first five weeks of Spring Quarter, before beginning deliberations regarding selection of recommended recipients of the 2007-2008. Distinguished Teaching Award.