



**J. Michael Geringer, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Strategy and International Business**

**Phone: 805.756.1755 Cell: 805.459.1383 email: jmichaelgeringer@yahoo.com**

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**TO:** Academic Senate

**FROM:** Mike Geringer, Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2009-2010

**RE:** Report for Winter Quarter, 2010, 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 8, 2010. As requested, Chair Geringer also met with the Academic Senate's Executive Committee during Winter Quarter to review the committee's proposed policies and procedures.

The Fall Quarter 2009 nomination process for the DTA award yielded eligible and valid nominations for a total of 58 faculty members. Nominations were received for qualified faculty from all 7 academic colleges. All of these nominations were received electronically. A number of nominees received multiple nominations from students, ranging up to 10 for one nominee.

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 on January 8, 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 highly rated candidates who could provide backup assurance in case two or more of the initial Finalists could not or would not participate in the DTA process). Each of CAFES, CLA, CAED, CSM, COE and CBUS were represented with at least one Finalist or Alternate. 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 but one of the Finalists agreed to participate in the process, so no Alternates were required.

Materials were received from the 8 Finalists by the deadline of Friday, January 29. All of the Finalists were teaching during Winter quarter, so we had a pool of 8 Finalists to visit during the present 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 1. A few changes in classroom visitation schedules have occurred due to course and instructor factors, and furlough schedules of committee members and Finalists have contributed to logistical challenges, but overall there have been no reports of significant difficulties with the classroom visitation and evaluation process.

Recommendations for the committee's policies and procedures for 2010-2011 and beyond were prepared for the Senate's Executive Committee. These recommendations were discussed and approved at the EC meeting on Tuesday, February 23. Subsequently, Daniel Howard-Greene from the President's Office made a suggested revision to the procedures, to incorporate the submission of additional information to the Senate Chair and President's Office when award recommendations are made. After some discussion of these proposals, the wording was revised and the revised policies and procedures are scheduled to be examined again at an EC meeting on Tuesday 27 April.

The committee will be continuing visitations through the first five weeks of Spring Quarter, before beginning deliberations regarding selection of recommended recipients of the 2009-2010 Distinguished Teaching Award.