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TO: Academic Senate

FROM: Mike Geringer, Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2010-2011

RE: Report for Winter Quarter, 2011, 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 7, 2010, from 4-6 p.m.

The Fall Quarter 2010 nomination process for the DTA award yielded 146 nominations, which was lower than any year since 2000-2001. We received eligible and valid nominations for a total of 36 faculty members. Nominations were received for qualified faculty from all academic colleges except COE. All of these nominations were received electronically. A number of nominees received multiple nominations from students, ranging up to 5 for one nominee.

One of the DTA committee's faculty members was a valid nominee for this year's award, so he was excluded from the initial screening process and selection of Finalists. Because this committee member was ultimately chosen as a Finalist, he has stepped down from the committee for the remainder of the year.

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 7, we spent much time discussing candidates and were able to reach consensus on a list of 9 Finalists that we felt evidenced superior merit for the award. Each of CAFES, CLA, CAED, CSM, and CENG 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.

Materials were received from the 9 Finalists by the deadline of Friday, January 28. All of the Finalists were teaching during Winter quarter, so we had a pool of 9 Finalists – with 21 different course preparations - to visit during the present quarter. During week 10 of Winter quarter, Chair Geringer will contact all Finalists with information requests for Spring quarter teaching activities, and we expect a pool of 8 Finalists during our Spring visitations (one Finalist is on sabbatical in Spring quarter, so we oversampled his classes with visitations during Winter quarter). 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.

A very disappointing situation arose at the end of January, when both of the ASI student representatives resigned from the committee (Laurel Hitt on January 20 and Melanie Miller on January 30, the evening before visitations were to commence). Each of them had been advised in detail in October and again in early January about the workload requirements associated with this committee. However, both student representatives reported that they were taking on course overloads in Winter and/or Spring quarters, as well as a range of other obligations such as student teaching, ASI officer tasks, etc. Therefore, when the reality of completing their obligations dawned on them, they chose to resign rather than to alter their other obligations. Nevertheless, I believe that both of them benefitted from priority registration perks during the two quarters that they were listed as committee members. Their late departure from the committee prevented us from locating and appointing replacement students to the committee. It is my recommendation that next year's DTA committee chair work with the ASI leadership team to identify committee candidates early and to ensure that any potential candidates understand the time commitments and that they are committing fully to completing these commitments. Otherwise, students are denied the opportunity to participate on the committee and express student perspectives.

Visitations to classes of the Finalists commenced on Monday, January 31. 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.

The committee will be continuing visitations through the first five weeks of Spring Quarter, before beginning deliberations regarding selection of recommended recipients of the 2010-2011 Distinguished Teaching Award.