

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR EDUCATION
GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTORS
COLLEGE PROVOSTS

SUBJECT: Nominations for Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Awards 2008-2009

The Committee on Distinguished Teaching of the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate invites you to submit nominations for the 2008-2009 Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Awards in the following categories:

- Distinguished Teaching Award, Senate Members
- Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award, Non-Senate Members
- Barbara and Paul Saltman Excellent Teaching Award, Graduate Students

Up to five members of the Academic Senate, three non-Senate members, and three graduate students will receive awards this Spring. Awards for Senate members are \$1,500 each (distributed as \$500 annually for three years), the Saltman Awards for Non-Senate Members are \$1,000 each, and the Saltman Excellent Teaching Awards, Graduate Students are \$500 each. Funds for the awards and the reception are generously provided by the Chancellor, the Senior Vice Chancellor-Academic Affairs, the Vice Chancellor-External Relations, and the donors to the Barbara and Paul Saltman Endowment Fund.

The Committee asks that you solicit nominations from students and faculty in your department, program, or college, and from these forward one nomination in each category. If a committee decides on the nominations, please note the names of the committee members in the nominating letter. Letters of support should be addressed to the Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Teaching and submitted via the Chair or Director of the nominee's primary department or program. The Chair or Director formally nominates the candidate(s) and prepare(s) the dossier(s) for submission to the Committee. **Nominations are due by March 9, 2009.** Send to the Committee for Distinguished Teaching, Academic Senate (c/o Missie Jacobs), MS 0002.

The file accompanying each nomination should outline the qualities that identify the candidate as a distinguished teacher, should contain as much supporting material as is available, and should document the nominee's contributions to the educational mission of the University. Nominating guidelines can be found at www-senate.ucsd.edu under "DOWNLOAD NEW MATERIALS".

The Awards Ceremony and Reception, held at the Faculty Club, is an opportunity to convey the importance placed on teaching by academic departments and programs and to underscore the high quality of teaching at UCSD. Your participation in the nomination process and the ceremony provides deserved recognition of excellence in teaching. Your department/program is also honored, as each recipient's name will bear the citation "Distinguished Teaching Award" in the UCSD General Catalog.

Thank you for taking the time and energy to honor teaching among your faculty colleagues and graduate students. If you have questions, please contact Missie Jacobs or any member of the Committee:

Jack K. Wolf (ECE), Chair
Paula F. Levin (Education Studies), Vice Chair
Jon Christopher Armour (Neurobiology)
Gerald Doppelt (Philosophy)
James A. Kulik (Psychology)
Philip C. Larson (Music)
Alexandra Newton (Pharmacology)

c: Chancellor
Senior Vice Chancellor-Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor-External Relations
Chair, Academic Senate
General Campus Deans
Members, Committee on Distinguished Teaching

Check List/Guidelines for Distinguished Teaching Awards

The nomination itself and all of the information that the Committee receives will be treated confidentially. The same criteria will apply to all three awards:

- I. Nominations can be directed to the Chair from faculty, students, or alumni. Student input on nominations should be encouraged by posting and distributing the attached solicitation to all students and teaching assistants.
- II. *Cover Letter from Department Chair, Program Director, or College Provost:* This letter should describe what makes the candidate's teaching distinguished, as opposed to good. It should also be a guide to the supporting evidence, and should concentrate on the analysis of the facts which support the case for the high quality of the candidate's teaching. Consistently superior teaching over a sustained period of time will be the main consideration in granting the awards.
- III. Supporting Evidence
 - A. *Teaching Performance and its Content:*
 1. Summarize information from student evaluation forms.
 2. Summarize a list of the courses the nominee has taught.
 3. Any course development, projects or grants, related to instruction, in which the nominee has been involved.
 - B. *Letters:* Letters from each of the following groups should be considered: 1. *Students;* 2. *Alumni;* 3. *Faculty and Associates.*
 - C. *Criteria:* It is recognized that there is no single criterion or set of criteria for teaching excellence. Excellence may be apparent in examples of teaching as varied as the exciting or inspiring lecturer before large audiences; the teacher who succeeds in integrating teaching and research; the instructor who institutes reasoned innovative teaching techniques; the counselor in or out of the classroom or laboratory who is available with advice and individual help; the teacher who excels in small groups, stimulating and motivating relatively small numbers of undergraduate or graduate students to creative work. Whatever the kind of teaching skill involved, distinguished teachers are presumed to stand in contrast to competent teachers by the effects upon those whom they teach.