University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Awards and Recognition Committee
2007-2008 Annual Report

Members:

Jasmine Alinder  Asst  History
Andre Tyson  Assoc  PSOA-Dance
William Pelfrey  Asst  Criminal Justice
Hong Iris Xie  Assoc  School of Info Studies
John Jordan, Chair  Assoc  Communication
Erica Bornstein  Asst  Anthropology
Lawrence Kuiper  Asst  French, Italian & Comparative Literature
Alexis Townsley  Student
Caitlin Brannon  Student

Charter:
Functions/ Responsibilities:

A1.6 Awards and Recognition Committee

(1) Membership. Nine members as follows: four elected faculty members; three faculty members appointed by the University Committee; and two students.
(2) Functions.
   a) Subject to administrative policies and guidelines and subject to the provisions of gifts, bequests, or other unbudgeted sources not administered directly by colleges, schools, or departments, recommends or selects candidates for awards or recognition for faculty members.
   b) Selects recipients for outstanding teacher recognition awards from candidates nominated by students, faculty, or departments.
      1) Recommends students for appropriate scholarship awards not under the jurisdiction of other faculty committees or other agencies.
      2) Maintains liaison with appropriate system-wide committees where these are pertinent to UWM.
      3) Acts as an information clearing house concerning sources of awards and recognition.
   (Document 1016, 3/17/77: UWM Administration approval, 3/30/77)
   (Editorially revised, 8/24/06)

Meetings:

This is the final report of activities of the UWM Awards & Recognition Committee during the 2007-2008 academic year. I would especially draw your attention to the “Suggestions for Improvement” section.

The committee engaged in the following activities:


1. 2007-08 UWM Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award

   The committee publicized, considered nominations, and granted awards to the following faculty members:
   
   Assistant Professor Tracey Heatherington, Anthropology
   Associate Professor Janet Lilly, Dance
   Assistant Professor Lindsay Timmerman, Communication
   Associate Professor Charles Wimpee, Biology

   Each award carries a cash prize of $1,500. There were eight nominees this year.

2. 2007-08 UWM Distinguished University Service Award

   The committee publicized, considered nominations, and granted awards to the following faculty members:
   
   Professor William Kritek, Administrative Leadership
   Professor Jeffrey Merrick, History

   Each award carries a cash prize of $1,500.

3. 2007-08 UWM Distinguished Public Service Award

   The committee publicized, considered nominations, and granted awards to the following faculty members:
   
   Associate Professor Mark Keane, SARUP
   Associate Professor Kevin McLeod, Mathematical Sciences

   Each award carries a cash prize of $1,500.

4. Ranking of applicants for the 2008 UWM Alumni Association Outstanding Scholar Award

   The committee reviewed material for 41 applicants recommended for this award. We provided the Alumni Association with a ranking of the top ten candidates.

5. Suggestions for Improvement of Committee Effectiveness

   The committee makes two suggestions regarding improvement: one dealing with committee member participation; the other with the handling of nomination materials.

   The committee this year was faced with membership issues which created an unequal distribution of the workload, and reduced the number of voices contributing to our deliberations. The vacancy caused by the leave of absence of one committee member,
who was not replaced, meant that the remaining committee members had to compensate. This burden was compounded by the inability of the two student government representatives to attend any committee meetings or participate in classroom observations of the nominees. Because the committee is dedicated to making sure that the nominees for the undergraduate teaching award are observed by multiple members of the committee, and considering the logistics involved in coordinating such observations, the majority members of the committee ask that these issue be given consideration. Six committee members ended up doing the work that should have been distributed amongst nine. We ask that faculty members of the committee who are going on leave be replaced quickly so that a new, faculty member can help to fulfill the obligations of the committee. We also ask that a prerequisite for student participation on the committee be instituted, consisting in part of a stated commitment to attend committee meetings and participate in classroom observations. The committee values and welcomes the opportunity for student representation. Indeed, we are saddened that two student members were on the roster, but neither made a contribution to the committee; student perspectives would be a meaningful aspect of the committee’s deliberations. We see student member participation as a problem in need of attention. This is the second consecutive year that student representatives have not made a meaningful contribution to the work of the committee. Similarly, this is the second consecutive year in which a faculty member’s leave has affected the committee’s ability to conduct its deliberations. We certainly do not wish to impede the ability of committee members to pursue worthwhile opportunities which may result in a leave of absence; but we also wish to emphasize that the committee would work best when nine contributing members constitute its ranks. For both faculty and students, membership on this committee cannot be “in name only.”

The committee’s second suggestion is to move in a “paperless” direction regarding the nomination materials. The nominees for the three major awards each submit nine paper copies of their nomination materials, which are often quite substantive. All of the materials must be shredded at the end of the academic year. These materials are invaluable to the committee’s deliberations, but we believe that it would be possible for the majority of these documents to be submitted and redistributed electronically, thus reducing the needless waste of paper and related resources. We would like next year’s announcements to include the ability for nominees to submit materials electronically, when possible.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Jordan
Chair, UWM Awards & Recognition Committee