University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Awards and Recognition Committee
2008-2009 Annual Report

Members:

Jasmine Alinder  Asst  History
Nancy Bird-Soto  Asst  Spanish
Junhong Chen  Assoc  Mechanical Engineering
William Pelfrey  Asst  Criminal Justice
John Jordan, Chair  Assoc  Communication
Bonnie Klein-Tasman  Assoc  Psychology
Konstantin Sobolev  Assoc  Civil Engineering
Hong Iris Xie  Assoc  School of Info Studies
Noah Kaufman  Student
Michael Knappen  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 2008-2009 academic year. I would draw your attention in particular to the “Suggestions for Improvement” section.

The committee engaged in the following activities:

1. 2008-09 UWM Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award

   The committee publicized, considered nominations for, and granted awards to the following faculty members:
Each award carries a cash prize of $1,500. There were eight nominees this year.

2. **2008-09 UWM Distinguished University Service Award**

The committee publicized, considered nominations for, and granted awards to the following faculty member:

Gabrielle Verdier, French, Italian & Comparative Literature

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

3. **2008-09 UWM Distinguished Public Service Award**

The committee publicized, considered nominations for, and granted awards to the following faculty members:

Mordecai Lee, School of Continuing Education
Sandra Millon Underwood, College of Nursing

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

4. **Ranking of applicants for the 2009 UWM Alumni Association Outstanding Scholar Award**

The committee reviewed material for 27 applicants recommended for this award. We provided the Alumni Association with a ranking of the top ten candidates.

5. **Consideration and Selection of Nominees for 2009 Regents Teaching Excellence Awards**

The committee considered the nomination of the Department of Communication, and designated the Department as the campus nominee for this award. Their nomination was forwarded to the Chancellor’s office.

6. **Suggestions for Improvement of Committee Effectiveness**

The committee this year urged applicants for all awards to submit their materials electronically, when possible. The response to this initiative was very positive. All materials from all candidates for all awards were submitted electronically. The two primary benefits achieved by going paperless were a reduction in paper use and waste (since these documents must be disposed of at the end of the year), and ease of managing documents among committee members and the SoU’s office.

The chair wishes to mention in particular that our two student representatives this year, Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Knappen, contributed fully to the committee process. In years past, student participation in and commitment to the committee has been a significant problem. We are grateful that there were no such problems this year, and the committee functioned more smoothly on the whole as a result of their participation.
One area of concern for the committee was the low number of applicants for the service awards and for the Regents departmental award, and the complete lack of an applicant for the Regents teaching award. We believe that the call for nominations went out as promptly as it could (given that the Regents Board did not give us much time to make the announcement). Therefore, the problem likely is in soliciting nominees at the campus level. Toward this end, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1) That previous UWM teaching award winners, extending back two years from the Regents award announcement, automatically be notified by the Awards & Recognition Committee of their eligibility for the Regents teaching award and encouraged to submit a nomination. The assumption is that UWM teaching award winners likely would only have to update their existing nomination packet, and their previous achievement would put them in good standing for the Regents award.

2) That non-awardees of the UWM teaching award also receive notification of eligibility for the Regents award. Although these nominees were not selected for the campus-level award, that they were nominated speaks highly of their teaching merit and makes them worthy candidates for the Regents award.

3) That the campus Deans take an active role in identifying departments they would consider worthy nominees for the Regents Department award, and encourage chairs of those departments to submit a nomination.

4) That the campus Deans encourage department chairs to identify faculty with outstanding public and/or university service, and encourage them to nominate those faculty for respective awards.

In sum, anything that can be done to encourage more nominations from the UWM campus would be welcome. The committee strongly believes that there are a good number of faculty and departments that are worthy of such awards, and we wish to see their efforts rewarded at both the campus and system levels.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Jordan, Chair
UWM Awards & Recognition Committee