

November 03, 2020

## **MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**RE:** Nominations for 2020-21 Distinguished Teaching Awards

The Davis Division of the Academic Senate invites nominations for the 2020-21 Distinguished Teaching Awards. There are two categories: undergraduate teaching and graduate/professional teaching. All members of the Academic Senate who have not previously won the award are eligible. Previous nominees who did not receive the award may be nominated again. Nominees must have taught at UC Davis for at least four years to be eligible.

Nominations are sought from any member of the academic community: students, student organizations, faculty, staff, alumni, departments, or units. The nomination must clearly designate the appropriate category (undergraduate or graduate/professional) and identify excellence in a broad range of teaching activities and mentoring. Successful nominations provide the perspective of both students and faculty. The committee selects up to three awardees per category.

Recipients will be honored at a combined Academic Senate and Academic Federation awards reception in Spring 2021, dependent on Campus Operating Status. Recipients and their achievements may be highlighted in UC Davis promotional articles or videos. Recipients will also receive an honorarium.

### ***Characteristics of Excellence in Teaching***

The award committee suggests that nomination letters consider the following characteristics of teaching (this list is not exhaustive):

- Class organization, clarity of lectures/presentations, and integration of lectures with coursework; objectives, philosophy, and principles associated with course content
- Command of subject matter and the ability to relate it to current events, historical precedents, and future research
- Ability to stimulate thought and involvement in the educational process; ability to teach students how to learn such that they develop sustained learning habits
- Significant contributions to improved and innovative teaching; use of innovative evaluation methods
- Advising and mentoring in terms of students' academic activities and career objectives; concern and responsiveness for students' welfare
- Accomplishments as measured by the success of students in subsequent academic and career activities

### ***Nomination Package Requirements***

Nomination packages must be submitted as a single PDF and include:

1. Nomination form (download [here](#))
2. Two nomination letters no longer than 1200 words each:
  - I. A letter from a student(s) or alumnus who has directly benefited from the nominee's teaching. This letter should make sure to reference excellence in terms of lecture/presentation, course organization, innovation, student advising, mentoring, etc. This letter may be written by one or more current or former students.
  - II. A letter from a faculty member documenting a long-term perspective of excellence in the nominee's contributions to teaching and mentoring.
3. The CV of the nominee, including a list of classes taught.
4. Student evaluation summaries from six different classes, of which no more than two should be from the same academic year. Any more than six classes or two classes per academic year will not be considered for review as part of the nomination package. For two of the six classes, provide complete evaluations, i.e., quantitative summaries and qualitative comments. Any more will not be considered for review as part of the nomination package.
5. In addition, for graduate/professional teaching nominations: a list of students for whom the nominee has served as major professor.

The committee relies heavily on the nomination letters. Material outside of the five items listed above should not be submitted.

All nominations must be either student- or peer-submitted. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations submitted by members currently serving on the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee will not be accepted.

Nominations for members currently serving on the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee will not be considered.

**The deadline for nominations is Monday, December 21, 2020.** Submit nomination packages as a single PDF file to Davis Division Policy Analyst Elizabeth Ramirez at [lizramirez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lizramirez@ucdavis.edu). Any questions about how to prepare a strong nomination can also be addressed to Elizabeth.

Sincerely,



Gail L. Patricelli  
Chair, Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee