

**University Faculty Senate
Committee on Student and Faculty Honors
Annual Report for the Academic Year 2001-2002**

Chair: Linda Gottfredson, School of Education
Members: Jan Bibik, Ken Campbell, Robert Davis, Steve Hastings, Pablo Huq, Vic Kaliakin, Katharine Kerrane, Erin O'Conner, Darcy Reisman, Claudio Spiguel

Every year, the Committee on Student and Faculty Honors (1) selects the recipients of the teaching and advising awards, (2) selects the recipient of the Alison Award, and (3) certifies whether submissions of new awards for the University Honors Day booklet meet pre-established criteria for inclusion. The committee has completed the first and third, and will meet soon to accomplish the second.

The committee also instituted a new on-line nomination procedure for the teaching and advising awards, continued reviewing the University Honors Day Booklet, and began developing a website.

New Procedures for Submitting Nominations for Teaching and Advising Awards

Last year we put nomination forms for these awards on the web which had to be downloaded and mailed to the Faculty Senate office. This year we developed nomination forms that could be submitted on-line, and notified all UD students of its availability by email. The new procedure yielded a dramatic rise in nominations, from no more than 200 in a year to over 1,000, thus meeting the committee's long-standing goal of increasing the number of nominations. The on-line procedure also decreases further the possibility of fraud and inappropriate campaigning, because all on-line nominations are automatically authenticated and the nomination form requires nominators to verify that their nomination was entirely voluntary and not solicited by the nominee.

Processing the on-line submissions required considerable debugging of the nominations database, designing procedures to put the information in easily usable reports for committee members' review, and creating a (secure) website repository for the reports and related materials. The huge number of nominations also required the committee to develop new procedures for reviewing them, including a new initial screening phase accomplished by teams of committee members.

Committee tasks for next year include enlisting the administration's assistance in assessing the employment or matriculation status (and hence eligibility) of all nominees and determining how to archive and make use of nominations from previous years for persons nominated in succeeding years.

Continuing Review of University Honors Day Booklet

As noted last year, the proliferation of awards in the University Honors Day Booklet and certain invidious comparisons among them (e.g., size of monetary rewards, race or gender designation) suggests that the booklet needs to be rethought. At the committee's suggestion, award descriptions have been streamlined to address the latter concern. However, requests to the committee this year for approval of national, non-UD awards has reinforced the need to continue reviewing the booklet more fundamentally. We will do so next year.

Committee Website

The committee has started to develop a website. It currently contains archival material, forms, and the like meant to assist committee members in their duties. We will continue to develop it for member use but also to provide relevant information to the UD community about awards and committee procedures.