

# Faculty Recognition and Awards Committee

## 2022-2023 Annual Report

DATE: June 13, 2023  
TO: Executive Committee, Faculty Senate, Oregon State University  
FROM: Raven Chakerian, Faculty Recognition & Awards Committee Chair  
SUBJECT: 2022-2023 Annual Report for Faculty Recognition and Awards Committee

### Committee Members

Raven Chakerian, Chair '24	School of Language, Culture & Society
Satoris Howes '23	Business Administration, OSU-Cascades
Kathryn Younger '23	Animal & Rangeland Sciences
Qinglai Meng (v. Price) '24	Economics
Stefanie Buck '25	Ecampus
JoAnne Bunnage '25	Academic Affairs
Student Member: none	N/A
Executive Committee Liaison:	Justin Fleming, Finance and Administration

All members actively participated in committee meetings and activities. In the coming year, the Committee will seek *three* new faculty members. Satoris Howes and Kathryn Younger have terms ending in 2023. JoAnne Bunnage announced her resignation as of mid-June 2023. Ideally, we will also have *one* student member. Raven Chakerian has agreed to continue to serve as chair in the 2023-2024 AY.

In addition to our primary activities in spring (reviewing nominations and selecting award recipients), the Committee met in early March to discuss aspects of the solicitation and review process that were identified by last year's committee as needing further evaluation (*recommendations in italics*):

- Current Faculty Senate Office members attempt to assure that representation on the committee includes diverse representation across ranks and disciplines. Should the standing rules be changed to include specific language around diverse committee membership to assure continuity of this process in case of staffing changes in the Senate office? Some Committee members felt it was important to ensure that research faculty were included on the committee, for example. *Because securing full membership on the committee is an ongoing challenge, the committee recommends not making changes that would complexify the requirements of membership at this time. Ongoing evaluation of the process with the potential to revise the standing rules to specify diverse membership in the future should be considered.*
- Should the Committee membership be more robust to allow for a wider range of perspectives from different ranks, disciplines, modalities and job classifications? Some members felt more than six members would improve the committee. Others felt more than six would complicate the review process. *As above, due to the challenges of securing full committee membership, the committee currently recommends not increasing membership beyond six faculty members.*
- Can language used to solicit awards and guide nominators be clarified to help streamline the review process? Faculty Recognition and Awards Committee members noted that nominators may not know that the committee is multidisciplinary and may not be familiar with what excellence looks like in a given discipline. Informing nominators of how the committee is composed and encouraging them to focus specifically on the award criteria would be beneficial. *This point should be revisited in a future year as the committee did not have time to discuss this in depth.*
- How can we encourage more nominations? What is the best way to spread the word about awards? The committee discussed several channels for increasing nominations including reminding deans and directors and other leadership of upcoming deadlines.

The Faculty Senate Office informed us that they send notifications via the Inform lists, OSU Today, Faculty Senate Newsletters (usually in January, February and March). With low numbers of nominations as the deadline approached, the committee requested an extension of the deadline which was approved by the Provost and communicated to the wider OSU community via the Senate Office. The Committee also requested that the Provost's Office contact program/unit leads, deans, and associate deans. Nominations increased significantly in the period following these efforts. *The committee recommends increasing visibility of the awards process and deadlines by having the Provost's Office contact unit leadership in addition to the established channels currently in use for this purpose by the Faculty Senate Office.*

During the 2022-2023 AY, the Committee evaluated 56 nominations (including 2 teams for the "Student Learning and Success Teamwork Award") for 14 awards. Nominations were received for all awards this year, with all but one receiving multiple nominations. The number of nominations this year was substantially higher than in recent years, likely due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past several years and potentially due to increased efforts by the Committee to increase communications university-wide regarding the awards process.

In April, Raven Chakerian and Vickie Nunnemaker communicated to set up the nomination review process and associated selection meeting. Nomination packets were prescreened for accuracy and eligibility and assembled on Box by the Faculty Senate Office for the Committee to review. In addition, the Faculty Senate Office facilitated participation of additional reviewers according to individual award requirements as follows:

- Eliza Allison, Academic Advising Council representative (OSU Academic Advising Award, Dar Reese Excellence in Advising Award)
- Siva Kolluri, Research Council representative (Promising Scholar Award)
- Karen Watte, Ecampus representative (OSU Faculty Excellence in Online Teaching Award, OSU Faculty Affordability Award)
- Nicole Von Germeten, Online Education Committee representative (OSU Faculty Excellence in Online Teaching Award)
- Chris Viggiani, Research Office Award (OSU Impact Award for Outstanding Scholarship)
- Lou Wojcinski, Advancement of Teaching Committee representative (Elizabeth P. Ritchie Distinguished Professor Award)
- Kate Sanders, OSU Alumni Association representative (OSU Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award)

During the review period all committee members completed the provided Evaluation Form, ranking nominees for each award and providing comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of each nomination packet. A thorough review was completed even for the one award that had only one recipient. Following the review period, the committee met in a hybrid format with Raven Chakerian (chair), Qinglai Meng, Stefanie Buck, Siva Kolluri, Chris Viggiani and Vickie Nunnemaker (non-voting, Faculty Senate facilitator) attending in the Faculty Senate conference room and other members (Tori Howes, Kathryn Younger, JoAnne Bunnage, and remaining external reviewers) attending via Zoom on May 10, 2023 and May 11, 2023. External reviewers who were unable to attend the meetings provided rankings and comments via email. The Committee reached consensus on the recommendations for all the award recipients using a ranking system followed by a discussion as suggested by Vickie Nunnemaker. Vickie assisted by tracking rankings on the spreadsheet which was projected on Zoom.

Following our review and selection process on May 11, 2023, the Committee discussed the following:

- Elimination of the 250-word limit on nominators. Letters of support are limited to two double-sided pages; nominators may only submit 250 words and are not currently allowed to be one of the letter-writers.
- The practice of accepting a document summarizing evidence of the nominees' qualifications in addition to the allowed three letters. Two such documents were received from nominators this year formatted as letters. Although the criteria do not allow for this, nor is it prohibited. The nominators were requested to change the document from a letter format. It needs to be decided whether nominators will be advised that this is an option to provide a level playing field for all nominators.

*Recommendation: The committee recommends disallowing the document summarizing nominee's qualifications, maintaining the 250-word nominator statement but allowing one of the three letters to be from the nominator.*

Finally, the Committee was asked to participate in the review of the Honorary Doctorate criteria and selection process. In addition, members were asked to participate in the review of an Honorary Doctorate nomination in April. The Committee did not support the nomination (see [attached letter](#) for details). During the 2023-2024 AY, the Faculty Recognition and Awards Committee will participate in the review and revision of the Honorary Doctorate award criteria and selection process.

A special thanks to Vickie Nunnemaker and Caitlin Calascibetta in the Faculty Senate Office for facilitating the award process!

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