

Date: October 26, 2020

To: Distinguished Teaching Award Nominators

From: Susan Straight, Chair
Committee on Distinguished Teaching

Re: A guide for Distinguished Teaching Award nominations

The Committee on Distinguished Teaching wishes to clarify the process by which recipients of the Distinguished Teaching award are chosen from the nominations we receive each year. It must be noted that many deserving candidates are nominated; indeed, it is rewarding to learn of the collective teaching excellence on our campus and the commitment of the faculty to our students. As such, it is exceptionally difficult to discriminate between the files of our colleagues, and many factors are taken into consideration to identify the awardees. Below are several factors considered by the Committee; note that files are not required to contain all of these items.

1. A continuous, rich history of outstanding student teaching evaluations, both numerical and narrative. Note that virtually all candidates have achieved a long-term record of excellence and rarely does this single criterion separate one candidate from another. Such a teaching record is generally earned across lower, upper division, and graduate courses, although the committee focuses on undergraduate teaching.
2. Letters from current UCR students; unsolicited letters are especially valued.
3. Letters from former students attesting how the instructional experience with the candidate has impacted their career paths and their current success. These letters should come from students who are themselves established in their careers.
4. Letters from colleagues, both on and off-campus, can provide useful documentation from a different perspective than can be gleaned from student evaluations. Please note the committee emphasizes student letters over letters from colleagues.
5. Documentation of how the candidate has provided innovative additions to your departmental or programmatic curriculum, or novel ways of cross-college partnering on our campus or across campuses to deliver interdisciplinary instruction.
6. Documentation of educational outreach activities undertaken by the candidate. These efforts could be in support of K-12 education in the community, workshops at national or international meetings, and/or instruction in professional courses.