AY20-36-C

Faculty Senate Issue Log Form

Title-of-Issue: Revision to the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award

Description: At a recent meeting of the Graduate Administrators Council, a consensus was reached that it would be desirable to make a significant change to the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, so that there would be one winner each year from each academic college. Because the winner of this award is chosen by the University Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee, Dean Wojtowicz concluded that this proposal should go to the Faculty Senate.

Rationale: In order to explain the rationale for the change, it will be useful first to describe a change made recently to the Doctoral Mentoring Award (which is awarded by the Graduate School). Originally the selection of a winner of this award came in two stages, with each college selecting a nominee and then the final selection of a university winner. Many colleges had their own doctoral mentoring awards. The change was to move to a structure where there are six university winners each year, one from each college. This change added no cost because colleges each transfer $500 to the Graduate School (usually the money that would previously have gone to the winner of the college award), and this combined with the money that used to go to the single university winner is enough for each winner to receive $1,000. There were two rationales for this change:

 1. It was difficult to compare nominees between colleges, because doctoral mentoring can look very different between different programs (e.g., Ph.D. programs and professional doctorates), and

 2. Having separate college and university awards is complicated, because either the college winner is automatically nominated for the university award or a prior winner of the college award can be nominated. In the first case, each faculty member gets at most one shot at the university award, so that the second-best candidate across the university might never win. In the second, colleges must run two selection processes instead of one, which is burdensome.

Having one winner from each college each year solves both problems. This new procedure is successfully operating in its second year.

The proposal is to make a parallel change to the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, for the same reasons. (While not all colleges currently have separate awards for graduate teaching, the starting point of the discussion was the recognition that there should be more opportunities to recognize faculty who excel at teaching at this level.) This would result in there being one winner each year from each academic college, with each college contributing the necessary amount to increase the prize money to $6,000 and each winner receiving $1,000. Colleges would set up internal procedures to select winners with the Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee ratifying these results.

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