

Faculty of Science Innovation in Teaching Award: Terms of Reference

The Award

The Faculty of Science stresses excellent teaching in its courses and recognizes the commitment by its academic staff to innovation in teaching. The Award for Innovation in Teaching is given to recognize creative contributions to the development of tools for the innovative presentation of coursework, new curriculum design, and the creation of an improved teaching and learning environment.

Normally, only one award per year will be made. However, in years in which the Awards Committee feels there is more than one exceptional nominee, up to three awards may be given.

Each award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$2000, which will be a one-time addition to the winner's salary. If the award is given to more than one winner, each winner will receive an individual plaque and the \$2000 prize. If the award is given to a team, each member of the team will receive an individual plaque and an equal portion of the \$2000 prize.

Eligibility

Nominees for the Innovation in Teaching Award must have been employees of the Faculty of Science at the time of the contribution. Previous nominations can be resubmitted, but previous winners of the award are excluded from further competition.

General Criteria

Generally the nomination needs to be strongly supported by the Chair of the Department, there needs to be a clear description of the innovation, evidence that this is effective in the creation of an improved teaching and learning environment, with letters of support from students and colleagues, as appropriate. Evidence of respect for the innovation by students and colleagues should be included in the nomination package.

Nomination Procedure

Departments can make one nomination per year. The nomination may name more than one person that contributed to the innovation. This award is separate from the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching, since the nominees do not actually have to be a classroom teacher. There are no fixed criteria for this award, since the types of innovation that may be recognized are so diverse.

There is no fixed style for the format of the nomination, but it must not be greater than 20 pages in length. Pages over this limit will be removed prior to adjudication.

Selection Procedures at Faculty Level

Awards will be made by the Faculty of Science Excellent Teaching Awards Committee which consists of six members and the Chair. Two of the members are to be undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science, two are to be alumni of the Faculty of Science and two are to be chosen from among those members of the academic staff, either current or retired, who have previously won a Faculty of Science Teaching Award themselves.

The academic staff appointments are to be made by the Dean or delegate and ratified by the Chairs' Committee of the Faculty of Science subject to the restriction that both academic members cannot come from the same department. The student members of the Committee would be recommended by the Faculty of Science undergraduate student society.

Members of the Committee will normally serve a two-year term.

The Chair of the Committee will be the Dean or delegate.

The Committee's functions every year will be: to receive nominations, seek other information, if any, they deem necessary and select the recipient of the award(s). The procedures to be followed for determining the recipient of the award(s) are to be established by the Committee itself.

Previous winners of the award are excluded from further competition.

Recommended to Faculty Council – Winter, 2015

Guidelines for Assessing Candidates

- (a) Innovation(s) is (are) clearly described.
- (b) Innovation(s) has (have) a clear and demonstrable impact on student learning in the class and beyond. Tangible evidence of the impact to student learning is included.
- (c) Innovation(s) has (have) spread beyond the innovator to others in the Department, Faculty and/or University to ensure sustainability.
- (d) The applicant has disseminated their innovation(s) to others in the Department, Faculty and/or University.