



REPORT

From the office of the...

Teaching Awards Committee

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Jacob Klugsberg
SUBJECT: Teaching Awards Committee Report 2
DATE: November 28th

UPDATE

Teaching Awards has had quite a busy past month. In the end of October we launched the Evaluate Your Education survey. Then from November 4-15th we held the Fall Nomination period. Currently, we are conducting class evaluations as well as interviews for the top nominees.

SERVICE USAGE

The Evaluate your Education survey received 198 submissions. Considering that the survey was quite lengthy and it was only promoted online, we feel that this is an adequate number. The Fall Nomination Period received a total nominations of 1594, which exceeded our goal of 1400 and represented a 22% increase from last year's Fall Nomination Period.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

In order to promote the fall nomination period we partnered with several MSU services and businesses. All of our promotional material was designed by the Underground. We had posters, banners, info cards and coffee sleeve stickers printed. Services such as SHEC, SCSN and SRA members helped to promote the nominations either through their offices or online media. Advocacy and Maroons helped promote the nomination period by asking their members to volunteer at our tables in the Student Centre. We had a video being promoted that got approximately 300 views, that was filmed and edited by the Communications Officer. We also had a post on Avenue, conducted class talks, a PSA as well as two interviews on CFMU, tables in the student centre, and a slide and information emailed out to all professors, deans, and faculty societies. Some improvements the committee discussed was to have a more mobile presence by going to libraries and cafeterias throughout the two weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Things continue to be busy for TAC. Currently we are completing class evaluations for the top nominees as well as video interviews that will be used for the online nominee profiles. We hope to have the online profiles up by beginning- mid January. This will not only highlight what these top nominees are doing within their teaching to have gotten nominated, but will also build awareness to our service prior to our Winter Nomination Period.

Also prior to the Winter Nomination Period, we will be releasing the data of our Evaluate Your Education survey. The data will be used in a few ways. The first is to help guide MSU policies involving Teaching and Learning. In order to present the data to students, infographics will be created and advertised to show students what they feel is effective and what they feel is currently being used. Last, I will be preparing a university submission and meeting Dr. Arshad Ahmad, AVP Teaching and Learning, regarding the data collected.

February 3-14 is the Winter Nomination Period where we hope to increase the amount of nominations from last year tremendously and then repeat the current evaluation and online profile procedure prior to the March 20th Awards Ceremony.

The Awards Ceremony date and location has been booked. The Provost has already confirmed that he is attending, and we are awaiting confirmation from other speakers.

Another thing I am looking to do is to create a student award that recognizes student contribution to academics and teaching. It has been established that peer support and collaboration amongst students plays a large role in student learning. In my discussions with both AVP Teaching and Learning, VP Education, and By-Laws committee, the idea was largely supported. Because it is a student award, I thought it would be best done through an MSU award and then to include the TAC Coordinator and VP Education in the selection committee. Currently no MSU award exists that specifically addresses this criteria. Although contribution to academics may be included, the thoughts of myself and the by-laws committee is this is often overshadowed by other factors. There were two ideas of how to get this done. The first was to change the scope of the Students of Distinction awards that currently exists. These awards have not been given out in many years and thus rather than eliminating it, changing the scope of the award could be a good option. The other option would be to create a new Award/By-Law for this award. I look forward to discussing your thoughts on this.

BUDGET

Due to the increased activity and promotion of the service, the budget of the service which was tight to begin with, has become even more so. I will be meeting with VP Finance Jeff Doucet, on December 10th to discuss the budget moving forward.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

At the current moment, things are progressing well. The only concern is that of the budget for second semester nomination period which will be discussed in the upcoming weeks.

SUCSESSES

A success since earlier in the year is volunteer engagement. With a shift in the way I communicate with the volunteers has come more involvement. Additionally, the increase in nominations and reaching our goal was extremely satisfying.

OTHER

It has been truly amazing to see the joy the professors and TAs have gotten from being informed of these nominations. This year's class of top nominees, are very much new faces to the Teaching Awards process and many of them are first year instructors. Even in the few interviews or conversations I have had thus far, I have already begun to see a real passion for teaching and utilizing adaptive teaching methods to maximize student learning and student academic experience.