



REPORT

From the office of the...
Teaching Awards Committee

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Jacob Klugsberg
SUBJECT: Teaching Awards Committee Report 4
DATE: March 20th, 2014

UPDATE

From the previous report until now, our time has mostly been completing the evaluations and interviews, and preparing for the TAC Ceremony.

SERVICE USAGE

In terms of usage, there is not too much to report since the last time I presented. The next measure of the service usage will be at the awards ceremony, where hopefully we will have a good attendance. Unfortunately I do not have any quantitative measures to compare it to from previous years.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Most of the updates regarding the Winter Nomination Period have already been given. While smaller than first semester (as expected) it was a successful period that produced outstanding nominees within their respective faculties.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The Awards Ceremony is being held on Thursday March 20th (The day of this EB presentation) at 6:00 PM in Gilmour Hall 111. The planning for this event is all completed. Invites have been sent out, guests confirmed, awards created, programs and certificates will be ready to go, food ordered, sound equipment booked, now all we have to do is execute the ceremony as planned.

In terms of advertisement of the ceremony, the vast majority has been through online emails and social media. Due to the budget provided, we were unable to do any print or banner advertisements. This is something that I have included in my transition report that would be helpful if the budget were to allow. We have also reached out to SRA and Services to not only invite their volunteers and constituents but to help share and

advertise the ceremony. We also have a news update on McMaster Daily news about the ceremony as well as announcing the winners the day after the ceremony.

BUDGET

There are no foreseeable issues with the budgeting for the Ceremony. At this point I cannot give you a detailed representation of the cost as I am still waiting for some confirmation regarding invoices. I should have more details regarding the budget breakdown by the meeting.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

The common issue throughout the year was the issue with volunteer participation. This has been an issue in past years, and one that I have identified as something to focus on for the coming year in my transition report.

SUCSESSES

I believe that this has been a fantastic year in really pushing the envelope on the service's outreach to the McMaster community. I have had an amazing opportunity working with members of my committee, other services, and many members of the faculty and administration. When I started this position I saw an opportunity to really focus more on the encouraging excellence in teaching part of the TAC mandate and I think we have been able to do that through increased recognition of the nominees. I believe that the nominee profiles, although adding a higher level of difficulty for coordination and organization, have been an excellent new tool that has caught the attention of students and faculty and should be continued in the future.

OTHER

I recently met with the AVP Teaching and Learning regarding some projects we had began discussing but I didn't have a chance to fully get to during my term. These include:

The creation of a student award for contribution to teaching and learning, and academic leadership

- Due to the timeline, I was unable to get this done during this academic year. My plan is still to type up an outline of the award, and forward it to the newly elected Bylaws and Procedures Commissioner before the end of my term so that it can be addressed next year.

Creating a network of Winners:

- Coming into this role, I believed that these awards could become more than just a plaque or certificate. I believed it could be a way to help professors grow and

- encourage them to better their teaching and commitment to innovative and pedagogical practices.
- This is something that my successor spoke about in her interview and something she wishes to work on during her term. One of the ideas she brought up was to have a gala or event for the winners and past winners to come together. At the current moment the TAC budget does not have the capacity to do this event, however, in collaboration with MIETL and the support expressed by the AVP Teaching and Learning, I can see this becoming a reality.
 - Another method to accomplish this goal that pending follow-up I believe I will be able to finalize during my term is to get the winners of the Merit Award and/or Pedagogical Innovation award, membership in McMaster's community of award winning instructors and an invitation to the President's retreat to interact and engage with other outstanding professors.

Another final point. I will hopefully have some more information regarding the GSA TA Award and the conversation I brought forward a few weeks ago by the meeting.