Committee Members:

Fall 2012: Wendy Binder (Chair), Monica Cabrera (through Oct. 2012), Laurel Franzen, Anna Harrison, Vanessa Newell (Fall 2012 Sabbatical replacement for B. Serlin), Ani Shabazian, Beth Serlin, Matthew Siniawski (through Oct. 2012), Damon Willick; Dorothea Herreiner (Ex Officio)

Spring 2013: Wendy Binder (Chair), Laurel Franzen, Anna Harrison, Beth Serlin, Ani Shabazian, Damon Willick; Dorothea Herreiner (Ex Officio)

The committee focused on activities that promote excellence in teaching, encourage professional development related to LMU’s teaching mission and support the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). This academic year also featured further revision of the Committee’s bylaws submitted to the COC in Spring 2013. The committee met once a month both semesters. The following items highlight and summarize the important work done by the Committee during the 2011-2012 academic year:

1. The Committee worked with CTE Director Dorothea Herreiner to facilitate her vision for the Center for Teaching Excellence.

2. Early in Fall 2012, the committee was tasked with revising the University Honor Code. We have been discussing the LMU Honor Code, looking at those of other Institutions, writing a revised version of ours, and then getting feedback of our white paper from the Faculty Senate and the Associate Deans Council. We plan on revising it to reflect the concerns and suggestions we have been given, and completing our version of it in order to give it to the Faculty Senate to continue the process of review and rewriting that will continue. We will meet this summer to make progress on this.

3. The CTE Travel Grants were made available to the faculty in the Fall this year. Two applications were received and one was funded. The committee still struggles with the issue of pedagogical content versus discipline content and the issue of how to evaluate applications from the School of Education as their content is pedagogy.
4. The R. Patricia Walsh Grants in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning were made available in Fall 2012, three applications were reviewed, and one was funded after much deliberation and discussion.

5. At the beginning of Spring 2013 the committee revised its bylaws in order to reflect current practice and university administrative structures, bring them into alignment with other faculty senate committee bylaws, and to facilitate the work of the committee. The revisions passed unanimously.

6. The Committee was put in charge of two former University Committees this year, the Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Evaluation of Teaching (CCET) and the Fritz Burns Distinguished Teaching Award (Burns Award).

   a. The CCET continued as a subcommittee made up of the former CCET (co-chaired by Kevin Wetmore and Jennifer Pate), and completed their work on peer-review this year. As they are done with their commissioned work, they met with and presented to the CET a final report on April 19, and will formally sunset at the end of Spring 2013. We expect the CET to update their work products in the future.

   b. The Burns Award committee was made up of a subset of the CET (all tenured voting members agreed to serve) along with Marta Baltodano who served as a representative from the School of Education and as the member who had served on the committee previously providing us with valuable institutional memory (we couldn’t find a 6th member as no one in the College of Business could be found to serve on relatively short notice). The committee met twice and selected a well-deserved Burns Award winner. We also began the process of revising the Burns bylaws. The CET bylaws must still be revised substantially to reflect that it oversees the Burns Award committee, and the Burns bylaws need revision for a number of reasons as well.

7. At the end of Spring 2013 the committee discussed revising our grants, including allowing grant recipients to expense costs, and creating new sub-categories of teaching grants that have both requirements and funding levels below that of the Walsh Grants to allow for increased funding of grants supporting teaching and learning, on the advice of Dr. Herreiner.
One challenge faced by the committee this year were the difficulty in finding times when the entire committee could meet together and the loss of two members in mid-Fall with no replacement. As this was a continuing issue, the committee decided to formally shrink itself to six members, one from each College/School, which allowed for a smaller committee that was better able to schedule meetings. We still had trouble getting sufficient members to attend to make a quorum, due to the competing demands on faculty time.

We have been very productive this year, but also challenged with the addition of considerable responsibilities to our committee. It has been difficult to get all of our work done, and we may have to set up a working group this summer to finish the Honor Code revision if we intend to hand it off to the Faculty Senate this Fall (which is our plan).

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Binder, Chair,
Committee on Excellence in Teaching
on behalf of CET members: Laurel Franzen, Anna Harrison, Ani Shabazian, Beth Serlin, Damon Willick, and Dorothea Herreiner (Ex Officio)