The Committee on Excellence in Teaching

Committee Members:  Kevin Wetmore (Chair), Wendy Binder, Monica Cabrera, Teresa Heiland, Ralph Quinones, Ana Serrano, Beth Serlin, and Daniel Smith-Christopher

Ex-Officio Member:  Jacqueline Dewar (CTE Director)

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. The following items highlight and summarize the important work done by the committee during the 2009-2010 academic year:

1. Based on the work done last year by the committee on the Statement of Teaching Effectiveness, we have continued to have conversations with various LMU constituencies regarding the Statement. On 26 January 2010, in conjunction with the CTE, the CET held a discussion on the Statement with faculty. 32 Faculty attended and a very productive discussion was held about what to do in order to facilitate effective teaching at LMU. Likewise, on 9 March 2010, in conjunction with the CTE, the CET held a discussion with invited students (with additional faculty and administrators invited to observe) on the Statement. 24 students attended and shared their insights as to what makes for effective teaching. The Committee also worked to disseminate the Statement to all deans, chairs and faculty.

2. Four applications for the R. Patricia Walsh Grant in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning were reviewed and two were funded. The recipients this year were Adriana Jaroszewicz and Victor Carmona.

3. The CTE Travel Grants were made available to the faculty twice this year due to a significant body of funds from CTE/CET’s overall stewardship of the program. In November three travel grant applications were reviewed and two were funded. In February another eight applications were reviewed and six were funded. Eight projects in total were funded this year and the recipients were: Kam Dahlquist (Biology), Veronique Flambard-Weisbart (Modern Languages), Michelle Hammers (Communication Studies), Teresa Heiland (Dance), Michael Lee (Theological Studies),
Chan Lu (Modern Languages), Kyra Pearson (Communication Studies), and Jeff Phillips (Physics).

4. Because of questions from applicants, the committee also spent time this year reviewing and revising the CTE Travel Grant Guidelines in order to ensure clarity and fairness.

5. The Committee worked with the Director of the CTE to plan events for the LMU Centennial celebration. We plan to work with the director to celebrate one hundred years of excellent teaching.

6. The committee reviewed the performance of the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at the end of the academic year. A letter was sent to Dr. Ernest Rose, Chief Academic Officer and Senior Vice President, at the end of the Spring 2010 semester that summarized the committee’s review and recommendations.

7. The committee assisted in the promotion and implementation of activities and program planned by the Center for Teaching Excellence for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Committee also made tentative plans next year to work with the committee that selects the Fritz Burns Teaching Award to clarify “excellent teaching,” to work with the recently formed “Committee on the Comprehensive Evaluation of Teaching” to develop more and better measures for the improvement of teaching, and we look forward to welcoming and working with interim CTE Director Suzanne Larson.

This report is respectfully submitted by Kevin Wetmore, Chair, Committee on Excellence in Teaching, on behalf of CET members: Wendy Binder, Monica Cabrera, Teresa Heiland, Ralph Quinones, Ana Serrano, Beth Serlin, Daniel Smith-Christopher, and Kevin Wetmore.