

THE NED FLEMING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Criteria

The quantity and quality of information in support of a nomination may vary from time to time. While there is no requirement of artificial uniformity in the documents submitted, the following description of what the committee should look for may be helpful:

The award is given in recognition of excellence in teaching; candidates must be judged, therefore, in terms of the accomplishments as teachers. Evidence concerning a candidate's excellence in research, in administrative duties, or in public service is relevant only so far as the information helps explain the candidate's success as a teacher. Similarly, statements concerning a candidate's personality or popularity are significant only when they help demonstrate or define the precise nature of the individual's excellence in teaching. The committee is naturally interested in knowing all it can about the individuals it must evaluate, but in the last analysis its decisions must rest primarily upon information that is offered to substantiate superiority in teaching.

The more precise such information is, the more likely it is to gain favorable consideration. The selection committee should learn all it can about how candidates have displayed their abilities to best advantage: whether they are most outstanding as lecturers in large or small groups; the utilization of meaningful learning/teaching techniques; achievement of learning outcomes by students; etc. The committee should have the information necessary to determine how the candidates have enlarged the content or elevated the intellectual level of their courses and, in particular, how their teaching activities have contributed to their own intellectual growth, as well as that of their students. It should seek evidence that the candidates have been doing not simply a good job, but an excellent one — that their contribution to their students, their department, and to the university as a whole testifies to exceptional abilities and efforts.

The criteria for the **Annual Ned N. Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award** are as follows:

1. Dedication to his/her teaching mission.
2. Depth of understanding of subject area; how the candidates have enlarged the content or elevated the intellectual level of their courses.
3. Ability to communicate and work with students in the learning process; "arousing intellectual curiosity of students."
4. Consistency of excellence in teaching.

Support for the preceding criteria may be derived from various sources. Opinions of a candidate's students, as well as his/her colleagues and supervisors, will be examined in light of their proportion of spontaneity. This should not be construed as a deliberate campaign to solicit student support. The views of students are most informative when the students are least aware that these views may affect their teacher's chances of receiving an important award. The quality rather than the quantity of endorsements that a candidate receives is important. An explanation of the methods by which these endorsements were obtained helps ensure that the committee will weigh them at their full value. The nomination will not be accepted without a current vitae for the nominee.

For further information, please contact the Academic Affairs Office at 785.670.1648.

