

Resolution on Revision to Outstanding Professor Selection Process

#25-05/06-FA – April 11, 2006 – First Reading

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that the name of the HSU Outstanding Professor Award be changed to Award for Teaching Excellence (for tenured faculty); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that in addition to the HSU Award for Teaching Excellence (for tenured faculty), three new campus awards be established: 1) Award for Teaching Excellence (for probationary faculty); 2) Award for Teaching Excellence (for lecturers), and 3) Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that the criteria for the selection of awardees and the documentation provided by the nominator/nominee, as set forth in the attachment to this resolution, be adopted and distributed to all faculty along with the invitation for nominations; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that the invitation for nominations for all Awards be distributed to faculty, staff and students during the first week in October, with a deadline for submissions by February 1; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University be the body that grants the awards; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that Section 823 of the Faculty Handbook be amended to reflect approved changes as appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that Appendix F, Article XVI. Committees, Section 4. Faculty Award Committee be amended to include the following committee membership: Six members of the teaching faculty (at least three of whom are previous recipients of at least one of the Teaching Excellence Awards) appointed for one-year terms by the Senate Appointments Committee, and two students appointed by the Associated Students President; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that Appendix F, Article XVI Committees, Section 4: Faculty Awards Committee be amended to have the Chair of the Faculty Awards Committee be chosen by the membership of the committee from among the previous recipients of one of the Teaching Excellence Awards; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends the all award recipients are honored at commencement for which the award was given and receive a plaque and that all award nominees receive a certificate.

RATIONALE: The current selection process for the Outstanding Professor Award was developed to replace a process for the earlier systemwide Trustee's Outstanding Professor Award, and to make it a campus award. The fundamental task of Humboldt State University is teaching, yet we could do a better job in recognizing and rewarding those members of the faculty who have been and are doing outstanding work as teachers. The university has limited itself to only one award which frequently goes almost unnoticed. Following several suggestions made by the Faculty Awards Committee (see attached) and others, the Faculty Affairs Committee offers the above resolution for Senate discussion, and we hope, approval. The main thrust of the resolution is to increase the number of awards and make it very clear that they are for teaching, not for scholarship in the traditional sense (we already have a scholar of the year award). The committee feels very strongly that the outstanding teaching done by our lecturers needs recognition, that the same is true of those in probationary positions and finally that those who have given a lifetime's service to excellence in teaching our students deserve special recognition. Although not part of the resolution, we consider the three Teaching Excellence Awards to be equal in merit. We also hope that the plaques and certificates of the recipients and nominees will be displayed in such a way so that students, staff and visitors will see the importance Humboldt State University places on teaching excellence. We also hope that the University administration will welcome the expansion and visibility of these awards as a means to advertise the commitment the institution has to teaching excellence.

Thus the actual changes the resolution calls for are the number of awards, the name of the awards, the makeup of the committee, the "due" dates, limiting each of the awards to a specific group of faculty, specifying the minimum number of years of service for nominees, the minimum number of years of student evaluations required, allowing the possibility of rolling over files of non-recipients for evaluation the following year and making the decision on choosing the recipient of the awards the prerogative of the Senate (See the last page of the attached letter from the Chair of the faculty Awards Committee.)