

## ANNUAL REPORT EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMITTEE 2012-2013

**Members:** Co-Chair, David Cappella (English), Co-Chair Brenda Zhou (Engineering), Dr. Barbara Clark (Teacher Education), Prof. Mary Collins (English), Dr. Rachel Schwell (Mathematics), Dr. Sarah Stookey (Management & Organization), Sahar Khan (student representative)

Kudos to Prof. Collins for her amazing recovery from a difficult 2011-2012 year for the Excellence in Teaching Committee. Through her organization and ability to coordinate the intricacies of the selection process, this year's committee was able to follow an intelligible time line and meet important deadlines. Prof. Collins provided materials from the previous year, essential information, and continual mentoring to both Dr. Zhou and myself as we co-chaired the committee.

Indeed, the EIT Committee followed all of her suggestions from the 2011-2012 report (please review this report for the suggested changes). Thus, the 2012-2013 process, as always time-consuming and detail oriented, worked smoothly because each committee member stuck to the schedule provided to us by Prof. Collins. We envision an even smoother, more streamlined process for the upcoming year.

One important factor contributed to a change in the ceremony this year. The EIT Committee connected with the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development to help create a Faculty Day. And the Center agreed to finance the food, the use of the room, and the morning workshops, while the EIT Committee took care of the brochures, copying costs, and other necessities.

Additionally, the EIT Committee agreed to two changes in the by-laws. They are:

**Though the newly designated Excellence in Teaching Award winner automatically becomes a member of the Excellence in Teaching Committee, the winner does not necessarily become Chair or Co-Chair of this committee during the first year of the two-year term.**

**Because the celebration of this award is now embedded into the new Faculty Day, the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development will provide funds for the room, the food, and the workshops on Faculty Day when the Excellence in Teaching Award ceremony occurs.**

The first change addresses the issue of who will chair the committee. We address the complicated issue of whether the new awardee should Chair or Co-Chair such a time-consuming committee in their first year on the committee. This by-law allows for flexibility within the committee to decide this issue.

The second change addresses any financial concerns that might arise in the future. By embedding ourselves within the CFTD Committees workshop day, we help that

committee to celebrate the entire CCSU faculty by having a special day and ending that day with our award ceremony. As this year's first Faculty Day demonstrated, this partnership builds solid collegiality and celebrates many, many fine teachers at CCSU. For this reason, the date of the awards ceremony was changed, and from now on the award will be presented on the designated CCSU Faculty Day.

These by-law changes have been forwarded to both Fred Latour, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and to Barry Hoopengardner, the Senate's Chair of the Committee on Committees.

It is important to note that in accordance with the most recent by-laws we added a student representative. Our student representative, Sahar Khan, provided invaluable insights as the selection process proceeded and she contributed to the presentation of the award ceremony. We believe that the student representative is integral to this committee.

We do feel that we had a rigorous, fair, successful EIT Award process for the 2012-2013 winners. We actively implemented the changes recommended by last year's committee. It certainly helped that Profs. Clark, Stookey, and Collins were on board this year to guide us. Without their efforts, we would have been seriously mired in what is by definition a rigorous, lengthy process.

We feel that with a new Chair, Dr. Schwell, a present EIT Committee member, we are on firm footing and "back in sync" as a committee. We look forward to a busy, but extremely rewarding 2013-2014 year.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cappella, Co-Chair (English)

Brenda Zhou, Co-Chair (Engineering)

EIT Awards Committee

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