May 19, 2024

To: Dean Suzzanne Raitt
        Faculty Affairs Committee
        Faculty of Arts and Sciences

From: Committee on Faculty Awards, Professorships, and Prizes (CFAPP) 2023-24
        Omiyemi Green (Theater, Speech, and Dance)
        Michael Halleran (Classical Studies), co-chair
        Charles McGovern (History and AMST)
        Simon Middleton (History)
        Konstantinos Orginos (Physics), co-chair
        Leah Shaw (Mathematics)

Re: Annual Report

The total number of professorships and awards, with varying requirements, the several web pages to oversee, and the high number of nominees combine to make managing the CCFAPP a challenging task. The committee thus wants first to express its gratitude to Erica MacLeod in the Dean of Arts and Sciences Office, whose work on these tasks made our job much easier.

Procedures and this year's awards
As in recent years, the entire membership of CFAPP evaluated the nominees for Eminent Professorships. Subcommittees, consisting of one member from CFAPP and two previous award winners from the faculty at large, evaluated the nominees for most of the remaining professorships and awards. In two cases, where the total number of nominees was very small, the entire CFAPP served as evaluating committee, and in the case of the various TDAP awards, which are treated as a single group, three subcommittees were formed and then the entire CFAPP made final recommendations to the dean. On a few occasions, a member of the evaluation team, owing to the closeness of their relationship to a nominee, recused themselves in the evaluation of that nominee. CFAPP does not make decisions but makes recommendations to the dean, using broad categories of differentiation. While in all cases the dean formally makes recommendations to the provost (and ultimately to the BOV), in instances where a professorship is at the university level, it is the provost who makes the decision.

The following specific evaluations took place this year:

Professorships
Chancellor Professorship: six candidates; all recommended to the dean; awarded to Professor Christopher DelNegro (Applied Science) [decision by Provost]

Kenan Professorship: three candidates; awarded to Leah Glenn (Dance)

NEH Professorship: six nominees; awarded to Deborah Morse (English)

Tang Professorship (Economics): one nominee; awarded to Professor Jennifer Mellor

Term
Hamilton: 10 nominees; awarded to Jozef Dudek (Physics), Emily Wilcox (MLL), and Kristin Wustholz (Chemistry)

Pittman (Biology): three nominees; awarded to Matthias Leu

Sharpe: three nominees; awarded to Amy Quark (Sociology)

Term Distinguished Associate Professors (TDAP): 17 nominees; awarded to Annie Blazer (Religious Studies), Saskia Mordijck (Physics), Andrea Wright (Anthropology), and Kelly Zvobgo (Government) [decisions by Provost]

Verkuil (Public Policy): two nominees; awarded to Peter McHenry (Economics)

Awards:
Arts & Sciences Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence: nine nominees; awarded to Evie Burnet (Kinesiology), Irina Novikova (Physics), and Giulia Pacini (MLL)

Governance: five nominees, three in the category of > 20 years of service, two in the category of < 20 years of service; awarded to Marc Sher (Physics)

Murphy: two nominees; awarded to Seth Aubin (Physics)

Let us conclude by observing the quality of the nominees was extremely high and that in many cases we were asked to make distinctions among several (or many) exceedingly deserving nominees. While this may have made our task more difficult, it was gratifying to see our colleagues' impressive achievements.

Recommendations:
Reflecting on the process over the year, the committee makes the following two suggestions for consideration and possible implementation next year. Before the start of next year, it might be worth meeting with the CPAFF and FAC(?) to discuss these issues.

1. The supporting materials for the different professorships vary considerably, both in the letter of the call and, even more, in practice. Is there a reason to have no supporting letters for some 1. awards but not for others. Some nominees provided only two years of evidence of teaching effectiveness, while others provide many years' worth of documentation. It would be valuable and, we think, fairer to have greater uniformity in the materials presented across the awards.

2. Evaluating nominees across disciplines (natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and the creative arts) is inherently challenging. While some information may *seem* obvious (e.g., $1.2M in external support), without greater context (comparison with peers

in comparable [sub-]fields), the raw figure is not sufficiently informative. This issue is perhaps most pronounced in the performing and creative arts, where the significance of venues or even the nature of the work are less obvious. This is not an easy problem to resolve, but we encourage the nominator/recommender spend more time contextualizing the nominee's accomplishments for a mixed and non-expert audience. This is done to some degree currently, but a more uniform practice of fuller contextualization would aid in the review by CFAPP.

We also discussed the role of CFAPP when the professorship is limited to a single department (or even to a sub-area within a department). Some held that in these cases, the department recommendation needed no review by CFAPP and could go directly to the dean for a decision. A majority of the committee, however, maintained that even in these cases CFAPP, as a disinterested and external body, added a useful review and that for uniformity with the process for other professorship CFAPP review was appropriate. We do not recommend a change on this matter but wanted to bring the issue to your attention.