

Georgia Tech Faculty Honors Committee

Annual Report for 2014-2015

Committee Members:

Nathan Moon, Chair (Public Policy)

Lisa Detter-Hoskin (GTRI-ACL)

Flavio Fenton (Physics)

David Frost (CEE)

John McIntyre (Business)

Jason Nadler (GTRI-EOSL)

Thanos Nenes (ChBE)

Rigoberto Hernandez, Faculty Executive Board Liaison (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

In 2014-2015, a total of 26 nomination packages were received for the nine Faculty Honors Committee Awards. The Faculty Honors Committee met twice in February 2015 to discuss and vote on the awards. Eight of the nine awards were decided by unanimous decision, including the decision of two finalists for the Distinguished Professor Award, the winner of which was decided by the President and Provost. In one instance, the Faculty Honors Committee voted to re-categorize an award package for the Senior Faculty Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. Approval for that decision was granted by Faculty Executive Board and Office of the Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR), which administers the award.

Following its decision making process, the chair communicated the results to all winners, their nominators, and unit heads. The chair also provided feedback for all nominators whose nominees were not selected. In the case of the Distinguished Professor Award, the committee followed the lead of the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost in extending its congratulations to the winner for 2015, Professor George Nemhauser from the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. All awardees were subsequently honored at the Georgia Tech Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon, held on April 17, 2015, in the Student Center Ballroom.

Other issues engaged by the committee:

- At various points, the committee inquired whether certain awards criteria need to be revised. In particular, the Committee discussed whether “professional education” should be defined more openly to encompass, among other things, massive open online courses (MOOCs). It also debated whether “service” should encompass solely philanthropic efforts completely external of work at Georgia Tech or consider service to the Institute as part of that definition. The Committee plans to explore these and other criteria at a later date and, where appropriate, will include other Institute stakeholders in those discussions.
- The committee also expressed its hope for more nominations next year, as well as greater representation from across the Institute. There is a great deal of excellence taking place among

Georgia Tech's faculty, and we hope for every opportunity to recognize it. The committee will undertake more outreach regarding the awards this year, especially among units that historically have been underrepresented in the awards process.

- Finally, the Faculty Honors Committee has been collaborating with other key awards committees, working through Institute Communications and the Office of the EVPR, to develop a common awards website, as well as the use of the EVPR's CompetitionSpace software for managing the awards process.