

Georgia Tech Faculty Honors Committee

Annual Report for 2015-2016

Committee Members:

Nathan W. Moon, Chair (CACP, Public Policy)

Lisa Detter-Hoskin (GTRI-ACL)

Flavio Fenton (Physics)

David Frost (CEE)

Jason Nadler (GTRI-EOSL)

Thanos Nenes (ChBE)

Matthew Miller, Graduate Student (student representative)

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

In 2015-2016, a total of 41 nomination packages were received for the nine Faculty Honors Committee Awards, which marked an increase from 26 packages in 2014-2015. The Faculty Honors Committee met twice in March 2016 to discuss and vote on the awards. The committee requested, and received, special consideration from the Office of the Provost to offer the **Class of 1940 W. Roane Beard Outstanding Teacher Award** to two outstanding recipients this past year. Additionally, a majority of committee members believed that none of the nominations quite met the standard for the **Class of 1934 Innovative Use of Education Technology Award**, and the award was not conferred. Approval for this decision was given by the Office of the Provost, which administers the award. Better guidance may be needed for this award, and feedback will be provided to nominators for next year's competition. Finally, the committee also forwarded on three finalists for the **Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award**, the winner of which was decided by the President and Provost.

Following its decision making process, the chair communicated the results to all winners, their nominators, and unit heads. The chair also provided feedback to 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 2016, **Professor Robin Thomas** from the School of Mathematics. All awardees were subsequently honored at the Georgia Tech Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon, held on April 22, 2016, in the Student Center Ballroom.

Other issues engaged by the committee:

- The Faculty Honors Committee has collaborated with other campus faculty and staff honors committees (i.e. Staff Honors Awards, Sigma Xi, CETL Awards) in an effort to better coordinate our efforts, which have been facilitated by Institute Communications in support of the Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon.
- Additionally, Gail Spatt and Susan Roche in the Office of the EVPR also have supported an effort to use the InfoReady Review system as a common platform for submissions. Most of the committees

have joined the effort. We have found it to be an improvement over T-Square, which we were using previously. Despite several minor glitches, feedback from nominators and submitters suggests that it has been a more user-friendly system for departments. It will continue to be refined for future use.

- At various points, the committee inquired whether certain awards criteria need to be revised. Certain awards, such as the Innovative Use of Education Technology Award, may need better guidelines to assist in the preparation of competitive nomination packages. 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 was very pleased to see an increase in the number of nominations, but it continues to express 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. Also, while the committee has been encouraged by the representation of award recipients from underrepresented groups, it also hopes that nominations reflect accurately the diversity of the Georgia Tech community.