

University-Wide Faculty Awards

Outstanding Faculty Award -- Associate and Assistant Professor:

The ideal university faculty member is someone whose accomplishments in the areas of teaching, research, and service are prodigious and of the highest quality. He or she is an inspiring, challenging, and effective teacher, whose concern and respect for students is evident both in and out of the classroom. Such a faculty member makes important and extensive contributions to his or her chosen field, and shares those contributions with peers through publication or other appropriate means. Finally, the ideal faculty member willingly and effectively devotes time and energy in useful service to the university, the profession, and the state. The recipients of these awards are those members of the university faculty who, in recent years, have demonstrated these qualities. Each year, two Outstanding Faculty Awards will be given, one each for an assistant and an associate professor. All UNH faculty at those ranks are eligible.

Distinguished Professor Award

The purpose of this award is to identify and honor longstanding members of the faculty. This singular university-wide award will be given each year to the faculty member whose overall record of excellent teaching, caring about students, devotion to the university community and substantial record of scholarly achievement exemplifies what we would call a "distinguished career." Each year there will be one Distinguished Professor Award. All long-term UNH faculty are eligible.

Award for Excellence in Research

This award acknowledges and honors a member of the UNH faculty who has demonstrated superior creativity and success in his/her research. Research is understood to include activities that result in the generation of new ideas or works of art, the solution of fundamental problems in a particular field, or the discovery of important new facts. This award is based on the quality, originality, and significance of the recipient's scholarly work. Since university faculty are expected to be effective transmitters as well as creators of knowledge, the willingness and ability of the recipient to share knowledge and research skills with colleagues and students should be evident. Each year there will be one Award for Excellence in Research. All UNH faculty are eligible, except those who have received this award within the last five years.

Award for Excellence in Public Service and Alumni Association Excellence in Public Service Award

These two awards recognize and honor exceptional achievements in the area of public service. Individuals who receive this award have engaged in outstanding service activities that are dependent on their academic expertise and that support the mission of the university. The types of activities to be honored should be related to a candidate's academic field and may include exceptional service to local, state or federal governments, to non-profit organizations or agencies, to business or industry, and to the university. Each year there will be one Award for Excellence in Public Service and one Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Public Service. The recipient of the Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Public Service will be invited to give a presentation on their public service contributions to the Alumni Association staff and/or Board of Directors. All UNH faculty are eligible, except those who have received this award within the last five years.

The Jean Brierley Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Jean Brierley Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes excellence in teaching by a full-time faculty member. A bequest from the estate of Jean Brierley, Class of 1930, established this *career-teaching award* to recognize outstanding accomplishment in the classroom. Professor Brierley established the endowed fund in 1973 to recognize teaching in any field or discipline at UNH. The recipient will give a presentation at an annual event sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence to help celebrate and promote good teaching.

Excellence in International Engagement

This award recognizes exceptional international engagement by a member of the full time, tenure track faculty in any UNH college. Nominees should have a well-established and ongoing record of international activities while on the UNH faculty. Such activities should include several of the following: individual research, collaborative research, exchange teaching, encouraging student international involvement, program development, service on international boards and task forces, consulting and/or publications/performances. Recommendations for this award are provided by a special committee of the Center for International Education, not the UNH Faculty Awards Committee.

UNH Faculty Awards Nomination Process

The process begins in December of each Academic Year when the Provost and Executive Vice President sends a memorandum to all faculty, department chairs, directors, and deans soliciting nominations for specific faculty awards. The process is usually completed in April of the following year.

A formal nomination is required. Each nomination must include:

- a. A **letter** from the nominator indicating the specific reasons the faculty member is being nominated for the *specific* award and evidence in support of the nomination.
- b. The nominee's **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**.
- c. **Two (2) letters of reference** that address the nominee's qualifications for the *specific* award. Do not submit more than two letters of reference. (Note: Unless there is a compelling reason, do not include a letter from the nominee's dean during the first round of review. The committee will solicit a reference letter from the dean if the nominee becomes a finalist for the award.)

Self-Nominations are acceptable. Such nominations must include a self-nomination letter, CV, and two reference letters.

1. **Electronic Submission Required.** All nomination materials must be submitted electronically by no later than February 8, 2008. All material must be submitted **by the nominator** in digital form only, using MS Word or .pdf file attachments. The nominator must send all of the nomination materials to: teaching.excellence@unh.edu. Submissions will be acknowledged

by the Center for Teaching Excellence within four business days. If the nominator has not received an acknowledgment of receipt by then, please send an inquiry to teaching.excellence@unh.edu or call 862-0233. **Please note: The nominator should collect all of the nomination materials and submit them at one time to teaching.excellence@unh.edu. All nomination materials—the nomination letter, nominee’s CV, and two letters of reference—must be submitted by the nominator.**

2. The **Faculty Awards Committee** reviews all nominations and selects a small number of finalists for each award. This committee selects finalists based solely upon the candidate’s CV, reference letters, and the letter of nomination from the nominator.
3. Once the finalists for an award have been identified, the chair of the **Faculty Awards Committee** will request additional information from the nominator. In some instances, additional reference letters are solicited.
 - a. For all awards that include teaching, a letter will be requested from the finalist’s **department chair** specifically requesting an assessment of the nominee’s qualifications for the award. This provision will be used for nominations involving the Outstanding Assistant/Associate and Distinguished Professor Award and the Brierley Award for Excellence in Teaching. It also may be used for other awards. If the chair of the department is the nominee, the **Faculty Awards Committee** chair will request this letter from a senior full-time professor in the nominee’s department.
 - b. In addition, for the finalists for the Brierley Award, the nominator will be requested to furnish a detailed assessment of recent student evaluation of teaching information for committee consideration.
4. The chair of the **Faculty Awards Committee** requests the dean of a finalist’s school/college to furnish a letter indicating his or her perspective on the finalist related to the specific award. The chair will send to the dean a copy of the candidate’s CV, nomination letter, and the letters of reference received in the original nomination packet.
5. Throughout the process, the **Faculty Awards Committee** relies upon the nominator to furnish additional information as required by the committee in order to complete its considerations. The **Faculty Awards Committee** may add finalists from the pool of nominees for its consideration after it has reviewed other finalists.
6. The **Faculty Awards Committee** makes recommendations for the awards to the **Provost and Executive Vice President**.
7. After making his decisions, the **Provost and Executive Vice President** informs each recipient’s dean of his/her selection. The dean informs the recipient and nominator. The Provost and Executive Vice President acknowledges all nominees and nominators. All other deans and appropriate university offices are informed of the decisions.

8. **Academic Affairs** will maintain a file with all submitted materials related to the award recipients. All other submitted materials will be destroyed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes a successful nomination?

It is essential that the original letter of nomination succinctly and cogently “make the case” for that nominee relative to the specific award. The committee is interested in the special and distinctive attributes this candidate presents relative to the particular award.

If a faculty member was considered last year, will he or she automatically be considered again?

No. No permanent files are maintained on the nominees or finalists. To have the same individual considered again, a new nomination (nominating letter + CV + 2 reference letters) must be made in accordance with this process.

Is it appropriate to discuss specific nominees with members of the Faculty Awards Committee?

Continuing members have the benefit of experience and are available to discuss the protocol used by this committee as well as offer perspectives on effective nomination.

What happens if a member of the Faculty Awards Committee is nominated?

If the committee member declines nomination, he or she remains involved in all actions of the committee. If, however, the committee member accepts nomination, he or she is removed from the committee (for one year) and is replaced by another faculty member.

What happens if a member of the Faculty Awards Committee nominates a colleague?

Nomination by a member of the committee is prohibited as a condition of membership.

What happens if a faculty member from the same academic department (or division at UNHM) as a member of the Faculty Awards Committee is nominated?

The member of the Faculty Awards Committee from the department or unit will not participate in considering the nominees for an award when another member of his or her academic department/unit has been nominated for a specific award.

What about self-nominations?

Over the past several years, a number of award recipients have been self-nominated. The **Faculty Awards Committee** solicits nominations and endorses self-nomination as one strategy to ensure that all who should be considered are considered.

Is it appropriate to use letters and other materials originally generated during promotion and/or tenure review to provide the additional information requested on semi-finalists?

No. This is a direct violation of university policy related to materials generated for promotion and/or tenure review.

If I want additional information, whom should I contact?

The Chair of the **Faculty Awards Committee** serves without vote and is available to assist nominators and answer questions concerning the process. Contact Professor Victor Benassi at 862-3180 or vab@unh.edu.

AY 2007-08 UNH Faculty Awards Committee

Professor **John Cerullo**
Humanities Division, History Program - UNH-Manchester

Professor **Jaume Marti-Olivella**
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures - College of Liberal Arts

Professor **Udo Schlenrich**
Department of Hospitality Management - Whittemore School of Business and Economics

Professor **Christina Bellinger**
Technical Services - UNH Library

Professor **Thomas Lee**
Department of Natural Resources - College of Life Science and Agriculture

Professor **Kerry Kazura**
Department of Family Studies – College of Health and Human Services

Professor **Elizabeth Varki**
Department of Computer Science - College of Engineering and Physical Science

Professor **Victor Benassi**, Committee Chair, Nonvoting
Department of Psychology and Center for Teaching Excellence