

GFC University Teaching Awards Committee Terms of Reference

1. Authority

The *Post-Secondary Learning Act* gives General Faculties Council (GFC) responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over "academic affairs" (section 26(1)) and over "academic awards" (section 26(1)(m)). GFC delegates certain of these powers to its University Teaching Awards Committee. GFC has thus established a University Teaching Awards Committee (GFC UTAC), as set out below.

The complete wording of the section(s) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, as referred to above, and any other related sections, should be checked in any instance where formal jurisdiction or delegation needs to be determined.

2. Composition of the Committee

Elected by GFC:

- Four members from Categories A1.1 and A1.6 and their counterparts in A1.5 and A1.7 (no more than one from any Faculty)
- One member from Category A2.3
- Two undergraduate students
- One graduate student

Nominated by the Alumni Association:

- Two Alumni

(GFC 29 JUN 1981) (GFC 28 NOV 1988)(EXEC 14 NOV 1994) (EXEC 01 MAY 2000) (EXEC 06 MAY 2002)

3. Mandate of the Committee

The University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) adjudicates the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Rutherford Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award (see the *Awards for Teaching Excellence Policy* and procedures as posted in UAPPOL). (EXEC 03 MAY 2004)

UTAC has responsibility for reviewing the awards policies and criteria for the Rutherford, William Hardy Alexander, Early Achievement, and Teaching Unit Awards, and for alerting the GFC Executive Committee of any problems with the policies governing these awards.

4. Committee Procedures

Information management of UTAC's proceedings must be clearly defined and able to stand up to close scrutiny. All information that forms the basis of a decision must be clearly understood and documented, along with the source of such information.

All UTAC members are expected to divest themselves of their particular concerns and act in the best interests of the University of Alberta in choosing award winners. Decisions are to be based on the

contents of the nomination files but may involve a consideration of additional information (see below), provided this is publicly available and shared with all members of UTAC. Offering anecdotal information (eg a testimonial) regarding individual candidates could unfairly influence the outcome of deliberations and is not permitted.

I Additional Information about Nominees

Members may bring forward to the meeting ONLY publicly available additional information provided that this information is shared with all other committee members.

Members may NOT bring forward additional anecdotal information.

In all cases, the Secretary to the Committee will note the full content and the source of the information for the record.

II Conflict of Interest

UTAC members should not participate in the nomination process within their Faculties. Such participation includes but is not limited to assistance in preparation of nomination packages, including and especially the preparation of letters of support.

Members should disclose to other members all perceived conflicts of interest. If a member feels he or she is unable to participate ethically in the adjudication process, the member should withdraw from the discussion. The Secretary will note for the record statements of conflicts of interest.

5. Additional Reporting Requirements

None.

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Approved November 26, 2007 (GFC)