

STUDENT LED AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

GENERAL PROCESS

- 1. In every long semester (Fall and Spring), the Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost asks all teaching faculty members if they want to volunteer to be considered for the Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence (SLATE award), and if so, for which classes.** In volunteering to be considered for the award, the faculty member gives permission for all information required in the process described below to be released to the student evaluation committee.
- 2. The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost checks to assure that only eligible faculty and eligible courses are considered (eligibility requirements are given below).**
- 3. The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost works with the Office of Measurement and Research Services (MARS) to assure that student opinion forms comply with the questions and format designated by the Student Leadership.** (Student opinion forms will not be used for any annual evaluation or promotion consideration).
- 4. The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost will assure that the forms are distributed and collected in a manner so that the instructors do not have access to the forms.**
- 5. The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost will assure that the statistical results from the student opinion surveys are generated by the Office of Measurement and Research Services and reported directly to the student evaluation committee.** For Fall 2008, MARS will find a single score per course by taking the average score for all respondents for each question on the student opinion survey and then summing these averages.
- 6. The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost will gather data from the department head (specific data described below) for all instructors whose scores from the student survey are above the threshold set by the Student Leadership.** For Fall 2008, the students have specified that they want further data for all faculty with course scores that are either in the top 25% of 1- and 2-hour credit courses; the top 25% of all 3-hour (or above) credit courses with less than 15 students; or the top 25% of all 3-hour (or above) credit courses with more than 15 students.
 - a. From the Department Head,** a brief statement on the appropriateness of the rigor of the course and the material covered. This is not to be used as a recommendation, but rather as a check against issues like grade inflation and to ensure that the correct material was covered in the course.
 - b. From the instructor,** the course syllabus and their teaching philosophy statement.
 - c. From the Office of Institutional Studies and Planning,** any grade distribution data for the instructor teaching the course under consideration available from Texas A&M for the past 5 years.
 - d. From the Office of Measurement and Research Services,** all previous scores for this instructor in previous semesters of this SLATE program.

7. **The Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost will provide the student selection committee (defined below) with the packages described above within 6 weeks from the end of the semester.**
8. **The student selection committee will evaluate all the data provided and determine the winners of the award within ten weeks of the end of the semester. The students will determine two tiers of awards. There will be various Gold awards that will vary between \$5000 and \$10,000, and various Silver awards that will vary between \$2500 and \$5000. The amount associated with each award within each tier will be weighed by class size—larger classes will receive higher amounts in each tier. The number of awards given within each tier will be determined taking into consideration the availability of funds and the number of faculty that fall within the Gold and Silver categories. Awards will be distributed as follows:**
 - a. One-third of all awards shall be given at large to any member of any college.
 - b. Two-thirds of the awards will be distributed among the colleges based on the ratio of the number of contact hours in the college to the number of contact hours taught in the University.
 - c. All colleges/schools and each branch campus will be eligible for at least one award.

FACULTY ELIGIBILITY

1. If more than one course is being taught, each course shall be considered individually; however, each instructor may only receive one award per semester.
2. The faculty member must be the Instructor of Record for a course under consideration in the semester.
3. The faculty must not have received a SLATE award in the past 2 long semesters.

Student Led Awards for Teaching Excellence Committee

A committee for the College Station campus will be formed to select the recipients of the awards from the top 25% scores of the students' opinion survey. This was done to give the process more than just one level of evaluation. A committee led by students with the assistance of a staff advisor from Student Activities would best be able to consider the survey along with the other information outlined below to make a decision. The Galveston and Qatar Branch Campuses are encouraged to form their own student-led committee.

Implementation and Evaluation:

This process should be reevaluated before the next cycle of awards. As with any new program there will be areas to improve upon. Information from the previous year will be taken into account, and the committee will recommend any changes that need to be made to make the program more effective at selecting the best instructors at Texas A&M.