

PSAI Teaching and Learning Award 2010

Call for Nominations

In response to a recommendation from its Teaching and Learning Committee, the PSAI has decided to make an annual award for teaching and learning in politics/public administration. The Committee seeks nominations for the 2010 award - details of the nomination and selection processes are outlined below.

Purpose of the Award

The award aims to recognise those political scientists whose disciplinary teaching incites intellectual curiosity in students, inspires departmental colleagues, integrates research and learning and increases student awareness of the significant relationships between politics as theory and politics as practice.

Nature of the Award

Recipients of the award will receive a cash prize sponsored by the PSAI and will be honoured at the PSAI annual conference. Prize winners will be given an opportunity to present their work to the teaching and learning panel during the conference.

Selection process

The selection process will have three phases

- Nomination by the Head of Department
- Submission of portfolio by nominee
- Assessment of portfolios by the judging panel (PSAI members and external academic)

Eligibility

All staff teaching a minimum of three politics modules (including one module to a large group) each academic year for at least two years.

Selection criteria

In making its decisions, the Committee will be looking for evidence of the nominee's sustained excellence in teaching/facilitating learning appropriate to students of politics and public administration. It will also examine how the nominee's research and teaching are integrated and how the nominee champions teaching and learning within the discipline.

Criteria for assessing teaching excellence

- Evidence of teaching practices which engage students and promote effective learning
- Teaching, learning or assessment related innovations led by the nominee
- Enthusiasm and vitality in teaching and learning and proactivity in professional development
- Influence on practice and/or professional development of colleagues with respect to teaching and learning
- Command of the subject

- Contribution to the curriculum and to pedagogy
- Ability to use a range of appropriate teaching tools and to organise course material and present it cogently
- Meaningful assessment of student learning and achievement of relevant learning outcomes
- Evidence of reflective engagement with teaching and learning
- Learner support strategies to build students' knowledge, confidence and competence within the discipline.

Nomination (Closing date July 7th 2010)

Each Head of Department, is requested to provide a letter of nomination (approximately 400 words) outlining how the nominee's work clearly rises above otherwise good teaching in the Department, how the nominee's research and teaching are integrated, how students respond to the teaching and the nominee's contribution to the departmental mission.

Please forward the letter to Dr. Theresa Reidy, Secretary of the PSAI, Department of Government, University College Cork, Ireland.

Submission of portfolio

Nominees will be asked to submit by September 1st 2010 a portfolio (of no more than 6000 words) that may include:

- A reflective statement on teaching goals, objectives and experiences (not to exceed 600 words).
- A list of teaching responsibilities, including class numbers and an outline of assessment strategies
- Samples of class materials e.g, syllabi, handouts, assignments and feedback
- Evidence of contribution to the curriculum and to the departmental/institutional promotion of excellence in teaching and learning
- Evidence of innovation and engagement
- Confirmation that feedback has been acted upon.
- Evidence of ongoing professional development in teaching and learning in the discipline

Presentation of award

The award will be presented during the 2010 PSAI annual conference in the Dublin Institute of Technology on the week-end of 8th -10th October.