



To:	Keith Nainby , Speaker of the Faculty
From:	David Martin, Chair, Leaves and Awards Committee, 2020-2021
Date:	May 4, 2021
RE:	Annual Report of the Leaves & Awards Committee, 2020-2021

The Leaves and Awards Committee consisted of members with a diverse professional background who worked diligently to perform their assigned duties. The members were:

David Martin – COS
Steven Wood – CAHSS
Al Petrosky – CBA
Ping Luo – COEKSW
David Zhu – Any College, Library, Counseling

The workload for this committee has been intense, and the committee members have put in many hours to complete their responsibilities. This included reviewing 79 total files over the course of a few months. I am amazed at the committee's diligence and dedication to serving their fellow faculty. It is my personal opinion that this committee's workload has extended to the point of requiring a course-release for all members, not just the chair. I ask Faculty Senate to seriously consider providing this for future LAC members.

The committee would like to recognize the work of Ms. Minerva Perez. She has been a pillar upon who's shoulders this committee rests. Without her organizational abilities, the committee could never have been successful. She continually went beyond the expectations of her duties and deserves praise for her hard work. To her, we are eternally grateful!

Additionally, Provost Greer supported the Leaves & Awards Committee by endorsing Committee recommendations and providing resources to further faculty recognition within our community. The Committee is grateful for all she did.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Grants

This year, the LAC received and recommended funding all 26 proposals totaling \$223,000. The proposals exhibited a high degree of scholarship, exemplifying the talent on the CSU Stanislaus campus. The committee wishes to acknowledge the support of Ms. Joyce Bell from ORSP for her integral assistance with this committee and their technical support for the RSCA online applications.

Sabbaticals

The LAC received 17 applications for sabbatical leaves. Based on the criteria set forth by the call, the Committee determined that all 17 proposals provided sufficient evidence of merit for the award of sabbatical leave.

Awards for Outstanding Professors

This year, the LAC received two application packages and it is with pride that LAC selected **Dr. Anita Pedersen-Pennock as this year's recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award.** Dr. Pedersen-Pennock creates an empathetic environment in the classroom. This was vitally important when the university transitioned to virtual teaching in 2020. During this time, she was able to reach out to her students to help with issues of isolation and fear. She continued



to deliver content that allowed her students to develop critical-thinking skills. Utilizing mid-class evaluations, she identifies areas for growth and change for her students.

This year, the LAC received 6 nominations for the **Outstanding RSCA Professor Award**. In the end, the committee found it impossible to select a single recipient due to the diverse nature of their independent fields. The committee selected to award three faculty: **Dr. Sarah Chan, Dr. Gina Cook, and Dr. Peter Xu.**

Dr. Sarah Chan has an impressive collection of creative activities. She is well-known nationally and internationally for her performances, recordings, master classes, and assisting with music competition. Among her prolific works are three concerto performances, over 26 significant performances, two professional recordings, nine master classes, over 40 interviews, publications, or presentations, and 56 music competition chairs or adjudicates. Furthermore, she has been the recipient of eleven grants. Her impact goes beyond personal accomplishments, but serves as outreach for the university.

Dr. Gina Cook is a significant figure in her field. She has amassed over \$1.5 million in grants, contracts, consulting, and other funding spanning over 18 activities. She has authored 19 refereed publications and 8 books or other publications. She has been invited to deliver 11 conference presentations and has given 53 referred conference presentations. Letters of support for her nomination include member of our faculty and Child Development Center, faculty from Merced, Michigan, and Montana, and the Program Director of the Head Start Program.

Dr. Peter Xu has a research portfolio that would be impressive at any university. In the six years with our university, he has had an enormous impact in his field of study. He has 43 referred journal publications and four book chapters and editorial publications. He has had presentations at nine referred conferences and 45 professional presentations. He currently has 10 papers under review and 24 papers that he is currently working on. The letters of support in his application show the impact he has made in his field.

Four nominations were received for the **Outstanding Community Service Professor Award** this year. LAC supports the recommendation of the award to **Dr. Aletha Harven**. Dr. Harven has served the community as co-organizer and facilitator for several socially important activities. Black history month activities, clothes drive for transgender and gender non-conforming students, Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance, and issues of undocumented students are some of the topics of her influential community service during her time at CSU, Stanislaus. Most recently, she organized a two-day training entitled "Confronting Anti-Black Racism on College Campus" not only reached an international audience of over 1,000 participants, but served as a shining light of hope and change during a time of turmoil in our nation. Even after the event, the impact echoes through the year. By making videos of the event available, she has ensured that this training can continue to motivate change.

Elizabeth Anne B. Papageorge Faculty Development Award

The Leaves and Awards Committee and the Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning reviewed the materials submitted by the nominators and nominees for the Elizabeth Anne B. Papageorge Faculty Development Award. This year, the LAC received 6 nominations for the award. The nomination packets were all very strong and the committee believes all nominees deserve praise for their efforts toward improving themselves as professors. The committee decided to honor two nominees with the award: **Dr. Mary Roaf and Dr. Sarah Bissonnette**

Dr. Mary Roaf has a teaching philosophy that utilizes the development of critical analysis,



informed by theory and practice, and a student-centered learning environment. She has been involved with FCETL in leading workshops to improve teaching online courses and in dismantling white supremacy in faculty teaching. Dr. Roaf's work is evident by the variety of supportive letters from students and faculty.

Dr. Sarah Bissonnette has been incorporating an inclusive learning environment for the last four and half years to the benefit of over 1,300 students. She views scientific teaching as requiring the same amount of rigor as demanded for research. This leads to a very active learning environment for her students. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Bissonnette has built a community of College of Sciences faculty to share in teaching and research ideas. Furthermore, she is the co-PI for an NSF grant for collaboration and inclusion in the sciences. Evidence of her impact are seen in the letters of support included in her application.

Outstanding Service in Faculty Governance

This year's recipient for **Outstanding Faculty Governance is Dr. Ann Strahm**. Dr. Strahm has been active in faculty governance for over 12 years. During this time, she has worked on a variety of projects that have benefited the faculty at CSUS and beyond. Not only has she been elected to many governance positions, but she has also volunteered to help on several useful projects. Most recently, she serves as the Chair-Elect of the University Educational Policies Committee and as the Vice-President of the Stanislaus chapter of the California Faculty Association.

During her service, Dr. Strahm has authored or co-authored seven Senate Resolutions. These resolutions have been beneficial to our campus. They have included protecting fair workloads for faculty, the right of students to have an education free from fear and harassment, and making sure that the faculty have a role in the campus strategic plan. Her work on the COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Committee has been crucial during our time of crisis. Furthermore, service with the Stanislaus CFA Campus Care Fund has been a benefit to the entire campus.

Assigned Time for Exceptional Service to Students

In Spring 2015, the Academic Senate passed 4/AS/15/SEC Policy: Assigned Time for Exceptional Service to Students. The purpose was to provide a process for all Unit 3 faculty to apply for assigned time for exceptional levels of service to students that supports the priorities of the CSU system. The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CFA and the Board of Trustees of the CSU designated the awarding of assigned time in the form of Weighted Teaching Units, (WTU's) to Unit 3 faculty employees (including lecturers) who were engaged in exceptional levels of service that support the CSU's priorities, but who are not otherwise receiving an adjustment in workload to reflect their efforts." Awards are designated for workload beyond the requirements of regular faculty assignment in enhancing the student-learning environment.

The LAC was charged with requesting, evaluating and making recommendations with respect to Unit 3 faculty applications for Assigned time for Exceptional Service to Students in AY 2018/19 and 2019/20 per the (Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and 4/AS/15/SEC Policy: Assigned Time for Exceptional Service to Students).

LAC received 14 applications. The LAC determined that all seven provided sufficient evidence of merit for award. Awards went to **Cueponcaxochitl Moreno Sandoval, Ethnic Studies (3); Mary Roaf, Ethnic Studies (3); Dana Nakano, Communication Studies (3); Wing To, Physics (2); and Martin Azevedo, Art, (3.2)**

Respectfully submitted,
David R. Marin, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Chair, Leaves & Awards Committee, 2020-2021