

The University of New Mexico Presidential Teaching Fellow

Introduction

The mission of the University of New Mexico is to serve as New Mexico's flagship institution of higher learning through demonstrated and growing excellence in *teaching, research, patient care, and community service*.

UNM's Presidential Teaching Fellows program affirms the institution's priority in teaching. It serves as a tangible pledge that the University is indeed serious about its effort toward quality teaching.

Objectives

The primary goal of the Presidential Teaching Fellows Program is to promote excellence in teaching by establishing a core of faculty who are given the highest recognition for their effective teaching and who carry a special responsibility toward ensuring teaching excellence by sharing their expertise with the University community

Specific Aims:

- To recognize, celebrate, and reward UNM faculty members for sustained and continuous teaching excellence.
- To create a sustaining group of skilled faculty who are advocates of and consultants for teaching excellence.
- To enhance teaching through collaboration between Teaching Fellows and faculty.
- To demonstrate the importance of accomplishments in teaching commensurate with the productivity and accomplishments in research.
- To have available a core of Teaching Fellows who will advise the President on means to promote and ensure distinguished teaching in all areas of UNM's educational endeavors.

The Program

1. One new Presidential Teaching Fellow is selected each year and serves as an active fellow for two years.
2. The responsibilities of Teaching Fellows during their two active years will be designed to focus attention specifically on teaching. A proposal delineating the particular duties of each Teaching Fellow will be included in materials reviewed by the selection committee and finalized in consultation with the Provost, or the Director of the Office of Support for Effective Teaching, or both. Some suggestions are offered in Appendix A.
3. During the active two years, the number of teaching contact hours may be reduced to compensate for the Fellow's campus-wide responsibilities. However, removal entirely from departmental teaching responsibilities would be counterproductive, since the example and

demonstrated skills and character of an outstanding teacher would not be available for students and faculty to observe and emulate.

4. Nominations and Selection of Teaching Fellows:

- a. The time table for soliciting nominations and selecting a new fellow will follow the same schedule as that used by the Faculty Senate Teaching Enhancement Committee for selecting other campus-wide teaching awards. Currently, nominations are solicited between November and February, review materials are submitted in March, and the award recipient is announced in May.
- b. Full-time tenured faculty of UNM are eligible.
- c. Nominations may be made by self, colleagues, students and alumni.
- d. The award-selection committee will select the Fellow following review of a file of material provided by the nominees. The content of the file will be similar to that used for the UNM Teacher of the Year Awards, plus a proposal of activities that the Teaching Fellow would undertake.
- e. A candidate for a Teaching Fellow may be a past recipient of UNM's other teaching awards.
- f. The Teaching Fellow will be selected by a committee with membership chosen by the Faculty Senate Teaching Enhancement Committee.

5. Award:

- a. The title "Presidential Teaching Fellow" will remain for the duration of service at UNM.
- b. During the two years as an active Fellow, \$1,000 will be added to the Teaching Fellow's base salary each year.
- c. During the two years as an active Fellow, \$3000 will be made available each year as necessary to support the Teaching Fellow's responsibility to share their teaching expertise with the University community. These funds can be provided (a) to the Fellow's department to support a course release that enables the Fellow's work, or (b) to the Fellow as extra compensation for the Fellow's work undertaken in addition to his or her normal workload. The distribution of these funds will be determined by a written and signed agreement between the Fellow, the Fellow's department chair, and the Provost (or the Provost's designate). If used for a course release, the \$3000 will be transferred to the Department prior to the semester when the course release will be in effect, and should be utilized to hire a replacement instructor. If used as extra compensation, the \$3000 will be paid to the Teaching Fellow at the end of each active year upon completion of agreed-upon activities described in the previous written and signed agreement.
- d. Each Teaching Fellow will submit a final report of his or her activities to the Provost no later than three months following the conclusion of his or her two-year period as an active Fellow

Appendix A

The following are suggested activities/responsibilities for a Teaching Fellow:

1. In association with the Office of Support for Effective Teaching, establish projects aimed at cultivating excellent teaching at UNM.
2. Assist in training TAs through participation with the Teaching Assistant Resource Center in the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Organize and participate in the panel of speakers during orientation for students and/or new faculty on campus.
4. Be a “resource person” of excellent teaching to interested faculty and students on campus. Perhaps schedule specific office hours for that purpose.
5. Organize, in association with the Office of Support for Effective Teaching, workshops or discussion forums with faculty colleagues who are interested in specific teaching pedagogies such as lecturing, discussions, seminars, field teaching, lab or studio instruction.