

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of December 3, 2009 meeting**

Bert Garza	David Quigley	Marilyn Matelski
Pat Byrne	Anna Rhodes	Richard Clifford, S.J.
Pat DeLeeuw	Brian Jacek	Callista Roy
Lillie Albert	Hassan Tehranian	Susan Gennaro
Kathy Dunn	Amy Hutton	Anita Tien
Elyse Purcell	Francine Cardman	Paul Lewis
Katie O'Dair	Tom Wall	Don Hafner
Gilda Morelli	Jenny Baglivo	

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1. The summary for the meeting of October 29, 2009 was approved and will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share the summary with colleagues.
 2. The University Council on Teaching has developed a proposal for a teaching award, to be presented at Commencement.

It was noted that there is a ceremony the day before Commencement that honors the winner of the Phi Beta Kappa teaching award, and that the presentation of two awards coinciding with Commencement might result in confusion or the unintentional diminishment of the significance of a university-wide teaching award.

Some noted that the University teaching award reflects the input of all students, both undergraduate and graduate, while the Phi Beta Kappa teaching award is based on nominations from only Phi Beta Kappa students.

Several members expressed support for presentation at Commencement, with the caveat that the ceremony is already quite lengthy and that attention should be paid to the overall duration of the ceremony. It was observed that the visibility of Commencement and the audience of faculty, seniors, families, and alumni at Commencement provides an appropriate opportunity to confer an important university award.

Questions were raised about the audience for the teaching award, and whether first-year students, graduating seniors, family, and/or faculty constitute the most interested audience for the award.

It was suggested that the award might be announced at the University Convocation in the Fall, in addition to Commencement, with perhaps a talk by the recipient and a reception in the recipient's honor following.

It was noted that although the Provost's Office might recommend the presentation of a teaching award at Commencement, final decisions on what is included in Commencement rest with the University Commencement Committee.

A member suggested that if the proposal is adopted, it would be important to publicize the process widely to all students.

It was noted that the obligation on the part of the teaching-award winner to conduct a workshop on teaching would be viewed favorably.

It was suggested that the cash payment accompanying the award be as high as practicable. Some proposed that the award should be accompanied by a medal, and others suggested

