

## **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award for The Ohio State University Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering**

To recognize and encourage the commitment and accomplishments of faculty from the Ohio State University Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) who consistently contribute as outstanding teachers and mentors of graduate students, the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award was created. This award recognizes teaching excellence, creativity, accomplishments, and mentoring of graduate students. Nominees are faculty who provide outstanding graduate classroom teaching, innovation in graduate curriculum development and implementation, outstanding thesis advising, and mentoring and guiding students throughout their professional training in the graduate program. The successful mentor serves as advisor, teacher, advocate, sponsor, and colleague. This award is part of continuing efforts to foster a superior culture for graduate student mentoring and increased awareness by recognizing individuals who serve as role models for graduate student education.

### **Eligibility**

Nominees must:

- Be tenured or tenure-track graduate faculty members actively involved in teaching and advising graduate students.
- Have a minimum of five years teaching and advising graduate students at OSU. Only the OSU teaching record will be considered.
- Have advised a minimum combination of five students to graduate degree completion, with an emphasis on Ph.D students (e.g. 4 Ph.D. and 1 M.S.)
- Have taught a minimum of two graduate level courses at the 6000 to 8000 level. Candidates who have taught a minimum of two courses at the 5000 level which included graduate students will also be eligible.

### **Nomination**

- Nominations accepted from peers, students, former students, emeritus faculty, MAE Department faculty members, and individuals with adequate knowledge of nominee's graduate performance.
- There must be evidence of excellence and effectiveness in graduate teaching and advising as demonstrated by student evaluations, observations by peers, and letters of support from students, emeritus faculty, appropriate administrators, and other relevant materials compiled by the nominating individual(s).
- Self-nominations and candidates campaigning for the award will not be accepted.

## Selection Criteria

Mentoring and advising graduate students takes on a variety of forms and specialization tailored for the best educational experience of the individual graduate student. For these reasons there will be some latitude for selection of the awardee. Criteria to be considered include the following four categories.

### Classroom Teaching

- Concern for students as individuals.
- Innovative design and presentation of graduate course content.
- Ensures that graduate students master the key content and skills of the course.
- Maintains availability and accessibility by providing consistently open lines of communication.

### Research Advising

- Demonstrated excellence in the instruction, teaching skills, integrity, supervision, mentoring and advising of graduate student research, scholarship, and professional development.
- Supports students as graduate research assistants on sponsored projects or grants that form the basis of theses.
- Provides exemplary guidance for research, scholarship, and technical competence.
- Promotes successful and timely completion of students' graduate work and degree programs.

### Professional Guidance

- Provides preparation for graduate student professional careers by exposure to technical presentations in national and international conferences and workshops, provides interactions with peers and employers at such meetings, preparation of research proposals, preparation of grant proposals, planning research projects, estimating project costs, required laboratory procedures, validation of results, integrity in performing and reporting research results.
- Provides students with the confidence, encouragement, and resources necessary to take full advantage of academic and professional opportunities, such as applying for student awards, applying for graduate scholarships, internships, graduate student paper competitions, and co-authored journal publications.
- Integrates students into the broader professional culture of the discipline and long-term professional development for their chosen career path.
- Provides students with opportunities to interface with practicing engineers from industry or national laboratories.

### Provides a Stimulating Environment

- Attracts the best graduate students (fellowship caliber) to his or her field of study.
- Collaborates with other faculty, industry and/or government colleagues in developing and stimulating intellectual cultures in which students thrive.
- Provides recognizable contributions to graduate education in general.

### **Selection Committee**

The selection committee shall be composed of a minimum of three individuals, with option for input from emeritus faculty and/or other stakeholders at the discretion of the committee and the Advisory Board Chair.

The selection committee shall be organized through the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering External Advisory Board with members selected from previous awardees, peers, senior OSU faculty, and emeritus OSU faculty.

### **Selection of Recipient and Award Process**

The annual selection process typically begins in December or January, with targeted completion of the selection process by end of February. This timeline allows for preparation of the award for presentation in early Spring.

Nominations are collected by the committee and reviewed in accordance with the selection criteria. The committee will perform this review through email discussions, supplemented with optional phone calls and/or meetings as needed. The award recipient is determined by a consensus choice of the committee.

Once the award recipient has been selected, the committee notifies the Advisory Board Chair to initiate preparations for presentation of the award, with additional support from the committee as requested. These preparations include ordering a plaque and preparing remarks about the award recipient.

Presentation of the award will occur at a time and location determined by the Advisory Board Chair, and the MAE Department Chair, with input from the committee as requested. There is typically a presentation at the Spring Advisory Board meeting, and also recognition during a faculty meeting coordinated by the Department Chair.