The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston
Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars

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Preamble

The Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars (the “Academy”) is a professional academy formed to promote the scholarship of teaching and learning at The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston.

Mission

The mission of the Academy is to promote, support, recognize and reward the scholarship of teaching and learning at The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston.

Goals and Objectives

The Academy and its Members will:

1. Serve as role models and mentors to faculty, residents and students in the member’s pursuit of excellence in the scholarship of teaching and learning.
2. Assist the Dean, departmental Chairs, the Office of Professional Development and Faculty Affairs and the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee in evaluating, recognizing and rewarding exceptional teachers.
3. Complement the efforts of the Office Professional Development and Faculty Affairs by promoting and facilitating the professional development of teaching faculty through continuing education opportunities, educational research, and peer review.
4. Promote intellectually rigorous teaching practices, integrity and scholarship in health professions education.
5. Encourage interdisciplinary dialogues about teaching and learning, working to remove internal barriers to interprofessional education and to promote collegiality in the academic community.
6. Increase understanding of the teaching and learning processes in order to promote evidence-based teaching practices.
7. Enhance the organizational culture of teaching excellence in the School of Dentistry, advocate teaching as a core element of the mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and recognize and reward those who demonstrate excellence in teaching.
8. Define and implement institutional structures that support teaching and learning excellence.
9. Create a positive and professional teaching and learning environment.
10. Collect, develop and disseminate resources that promote excellence in teaching and learning.

**Article I - Name**

**Section 1. Name** - This professional academy shall be officially known and designated as the "Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars at The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston."

**Section 2. Variations in Name** – An abbreviation of or variation in the name of this Academy will be permitted, specifically, “The Academy” or the "Dean’s Scholar Academy."

**Article II - Membership**

**Section 1. Criteria for Membership:** School of Dentistry faculty who have been recognized for outstanding teaching at the School at UTHealth and/or at the UT System level will automatically be inducted into the Academy annually. The inductions will honor those faculty who have sustained an outstanding performance in teaching over a period of several years. "Outstanding" teaching rises above "good" teaching by inciting intellectual curiosity in students, engaging them in the learning process and facilitating life-long learning skills.

**Section 2. Membership Composition:** Academy membership is composed of recipients of teaching awards from, or membership in, the following:

A. Recipients of the Dean’s Excellence Awards (Appendix 1)
   a. Scholarship of Application
   b. Scholarship of Discovery
   c. Scholarship of Integration
   d. Scholarship of Teaching
   e. Dean’s Excellence Award for Volunteer Faculty
The Dean’s Teaching Excellence Awards will be determined through a formal application and award process. See Appendices

B. Recipients of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston President’s Scholar Award in Teaching
http://www.uth.tmc.edu/academic/nomination.htm

C. Faculty elected to membership in The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education
http://www.utsystem.edu/academy/hse/

Membership in the Academy commences at the first meeting after receiving a receipt of a teaching award, or election to membership in The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education.

Article III – Term of Membership

Faculty inducted into the Academy through a Dean’s Excellence Award (e.g. Scholarship, Engagement and Collaboration, Innovation, Volunteer, Research or Mentoring) will be members for a period of five years. Faculty who are admitted into the Academy through recognition at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston or University of Texas System levels will hold membership with no expiration.

Article IV - Membership Benefits

Benefits of membership in the Academy include, but are not limited to:

1. Recognition of commitment to teaching and educational scholarship;
2. Participation in rigorous peer review processes and access to professional development resources that can facilitate academic career success through teaching and educational scholarship (e.g., annual performance reviews, tenure and promotion processes, and merit/recognition awards);
3. Ongoing interactions and opportunities for collaboration with colleagues within and across disciplines, departments, and schools who are similarly committed and engaged in outstanding teaching and educational scholarship;
4. Attendance at conferences and an annual retreat for Academy members focused on strengthening the educational mission of UTHealth;
5. Eligibility for special programs and incentives (e.g., future internal grant funding, released/designated educational/curricular innovation, travel funds to present at educational meetings, endowed Chairs in educational scholarship and annual programs of professional development focused specifically on educational
scholarship), subject to obtaining sufficient funding to establish and/or sustain those programs and incentives.

6. Consideration for nomination in The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education. The procedures for nomination and election of members of The UT Academy of Health Science Education are included in the Policies and Procedures Manual of the UT Academy of Health Science Education, and are consistent with the goals of the Academy and criteria for Academy membership. (See Appendix 2)

**Article V - Member Responsibilities**

Members of the Academy are expected to:

1. Maintain and strengthen performance and achievement in teaching and educational scholarship;
2. Contribute to strengthening the educational missions of UTHealth and its academic units (Schools);
3. Support the continued development of an effective Academy through service and encouragement to others to engage in Academy-sponsored programs and activities and strive for Academy membership;
4. Participate actively in Academy membership activities;
5. Serve as champions, role models, and mentors of teaching excellence and educational scholarship;
6. Seize opportunities to communicate and demonstrate evidence of institutional commitment and achievements in the scholarship of teaching and educational scholarship at UTHealth to colleagues and communities.

**Article VI - Organizational Structure**

Section 1. Academy Executive Committee

**Membership:** The Executive Committee includes the Academy President, President-Elect, and three (3) Members-at-Large. The Dean of the School of Dentistry and a representative of the Office of Professional Development and Faculty Affairs and will serve as ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

**Elections** will be held at the first meeting after induction of new Academy Members in the summer of each year. Any member of the Academy Executive Committee shall not be precluded from being re-elected to the Executive Committee in consecutive years, except that the position of President will
automatically be assumed by the President-Elect at the end of his/her one-year term as President Elect.

**Duties:** The Executive Committee shall:
1. Determine the responsibilities and activities of the Academy;
2. Identify the need for new standing and ad hoc committees and formulate charges for such committees;

**Nominations:** Nominations for membership on the Executive Committee will be accepted from:
1. The floor, during the meeting at which elections will be held; or
2. Electronic nominations to the President of the Academy, which must be received no later than two days prior to the meeting at which elections will be held.

**Election:** Election will be from a simple majority of members present at the meeting. Nominees must be members of the Academy in good standing.

**Executive Committee members** will serve a term of one year, except the President-Elect, who will serve a two-year term, the second year begin as President.

**Section 2. Duties of Officers**

A. **President.** The President shall:
1. Be determined by nomination and election according to the process delineated above;
2. Provide oversight of the finances of the Academy, including an annual budget if funds are available;
3. Call and preside over meetings of the Academy, prepare or cause to be prepared minutes of each official meeting of the Committee, and make copies of minutes available to all members of the Academy.

B. **President-Elect.** The President-Elect shall:
1. Be eligible to take office only if he/she has at least two years’ membership left in the Academy.
2. Be determined by nomination and election according to the process delineated above;
3. Become President at the end of his/her one-year term at President Elect;
4. Preside over meetings of the Academy in the absence of the President;
5. Assist the President, Executive Committee and Academy Members as appropriate.

C. **Academy Executive Committee Members at Large.** Members-at-Large shall:
1. Be determined by nomination and election according to the process delineated above;
2. Assist the President as requested and attend Executive Committee meetings.

Section 3. Committees

A. Grant Development Committee.

This committee is charged with the conduct and administration of various initiatives involving the seeking and writing of grants.

Article VII - Programs and Resources

The Academy will support, subject to available and continued funding, the following programs and resources:

1. Interactive Website -- to enhance communication, collaboration, and use of web-based resources that will be developed.
2. Academy Colloquia -- theme-based conferences focused on particular interdisciplinary professional development topics related to teaching excellence, the scholarship of teaching, and/or educational scholarship.
3. Annual Academy Retreat – event that includes professional development, professional reflection and planning, informal networking and collaboration, and planning the Academy activities.
4. Educational enhancement and curricular innovation program – an opportunity to submit proposals for peer review and receive UTHHealth designated funds to support educational enhancements, curricular innovation, and important educational research and evaluation projects.
5. Special Programs and Projects – opportunities to develop and participate in collaborative educational research and development projects, and related professional presentations and publications.
6. Educational Scholarship Travel Fund Grants – travel fund grants to support educational scholarship presentations and participation at professional meetings and conferences.
7. Academy Speakers Bureau for Teaching and Educational Scholarship – development of a web-based Academy database for identifying and maintaining areas of expertise in teaching and educational scholarship that can be used to facilitate opportunities for Academy members to present and collaborate with interested colleagues.
Article VIII - Academy Outcomes

Benchmarks will be established by the Academy to track progress in terms of time elapsed. Indicators and metrics for achieving goals will also be established by the Academy and the Outcomes Assessment Committee. Outcomes will be reviewed, assessed and reported to the Dean.

Article IX – Amendments

These Bylaws may be repealed, modified, altered or amended, or new Bylaws may be adopted at any regular or special meeting of this Academy, provided that due notice electronically or by mail of the proposed changes shall have been sent to all members of this Academy at least thirty (30) days preceding the date of said meeting.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Academy members in good standing present and voting shall be required to make an amendment to these Bylaws.

All proposed amendments to these Bylaws may not be considered by the membership unless first reviewed and approved by the President and the Executive Committee. They shall be submitted in advance for review and approval by the Academy membership and do not become effective until they are so approved.

References

APPENDIX 1

The following section outlines the criteria used in the nomination and peer review process for the Dean’s Excellence Awards.

Excellence Awards for Scholarship

Scholarship is defined as “serious formal study or research of a subject” (Merriam-Webster Learner’s Dictionary) and “knowledge resulting from study and research in a particular field” (American Heritage Dictionary). Traditionally, in academic institutions scholarship has focused primarily on research/discovery, excluding other areas in which a faculty member contributes to the educational mission of the institution. At the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, a broader, more inclusive definition has been embraced that includes the scholarship of teaching, application, integration, as well as discovery (Boyer 1997).

The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston Excellence Awards for Scholarship serve to recognize individual faculty members for their contributions in these four areas. These awards recognize individuals who have shown the ability to be active and reflective in their research, make connections between multiple and divergent areas, build bridges between theory and practice or engage in activities consistent with the scholarship of teaching and learning. They provide an opportunity for School of Dentistry faculty who meet designated standards of scholarship and excellence to receive recognition for their exemplary educational contributions to the school. Recipients of these awards will serve as distinguished educator role models for learners at all levels in the institution.

Award Definitions and Criteria
To be eligible for an award, individuals must meet one or more of the criteria listed below.

Scholarship of Application – “aid society and professions in addressing problems”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Serving as an external consultant to government or industry groups
- Assuming leadership roles in professional organizations
- Advising student leaders, fostering their professional growth
- Developing expanded community outreach activities
Engaging students in service learning opportunities
Presentation and/or leadership of continuing education courses

Scholarship of Discovery – “building new knowledge through research”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s research activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of research in a particular field. Obtaining multiyear grant funding from major funding agencies
- Development of opportunities for the continuous exchange of ideas, strategies, and methods related to research within and outside
- Discovery of distinctive solutions to research problems faced by the School of Dentistry and our community
- Mentoring of those interested in research

Scholarship of Integration – “interpreting the use of knowledge across disciplines”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Preparing a comprehensive literature review
- Contributing to a textbook for use in multiple disciplines
- Collaborating with colleagues to design and deliver a core course
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of integration of all layers of teaching such as DDS/post-graduate courses and clinics
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of interdisciplinary teaching, including interprofessional education (IPE)
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of interdisciplinary research.
- Development of opportunities for the continuous exchange of ideas, strategies, and methods related to teaching and learning within the School of Dentistry, UTHealth, the Texas Medical Center, and externally such as journal clubs, case presentations, table clinics
- Discovery and publication of distinctive solutions to educational problems faced by the School of Dentistry and our community

Scholarship of Teaching – “study teaching models and practices to achieve optimal learning”.


- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Advancing learning theory through classroom research and publication
- Developing and/or testing new instructional materials and/or methods drawing upon “best practices” (i.e., instructional media, e-learning, lectures, texts, course syllabi, monograph)
- Development of a new course or an elective (or a major revision of existing courses) drawing from the literature and “best practices” in the field
- Mentoring students and colleagues to be critical thinkers and lifelong learners
- Designing and/or implementing assessment systems, such as peer review of teaching or effectiveness of curricular change
- Contributing to “best practices in the field” by giving invited professional presentations or workshops at the local, national or international levels
- Presentation and/or leadership of continuing education courses
- Providing faculty development opportunities to enhance teaching and learning
- Development of innovative teaching or evaluation materials or methods such as novel uses of the simulation clinic, digital radiography, an automated response system or other instructional technology applications
- Provide evidence of advanced preparation for teaching such as:
  a. Participation in the Health Educators Fellowship Program
  b. Obtaining membership in The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education
  c. Obtaining a graduate degree related to education in the health sciences
  d. Participate in national conference workshops, symposia and panels related to teaching and learning

Highest priority for the awards will be given to those faculty members who make their scholarship public. This can be accomplished through publications, presentations, workshops, CE, or consultation to other departments within the school, but especially to external audiences, such as ADEA, AADR, IADR or other professional organizations.

**Dean’s Excellence Award for Volunteer Faculty**

Award Definition and Criteria. Individuals who provide voluntary service to the School of Dentistry bring valuable expertise to our educational programs. This award will honor a
faculty member who has consistently volunteered his/her time in supporting and sustaining the mission of the School of Dentistry in the areas of the Scholarship of Application, Scholarship of Integration, or Scholarship of Teaching. Volunteer faculty will be eligible for nomination using the same criteria, documentation, and selection processes described above for the Excellence Awards for Scholarship. To be eligible for this award, individuals must meet one or more of the criteria listed for those categories.
APPENDIX 2

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston President’s Scholar
http://www.uth.tmc.edu/academic/nomination.htm

The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education
http://www.utsystem.edu/academy/hse/