

Columbia College Chicago Distinguished College Teacher

Description: Beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year, one full-time faculty member (ordinarily, tenured) will be appointed each year to a two-year term as Distinguished College Teacher. This means that beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, there will be a team of such teachers, representing a balance of departments and disciplines across the College. Released from some classroom teaching and most routine committee service during their two-year terms, these Distinguished College Teachers will maintain a highly engaged and visible presence on campus. They will model for colleagues and students what it means to pursue excellence through innovation, risk-taking, and accomplishment in arts and media education and practice. Making their own teaching and learning practices visible and public, these Distinguished College Teachers will foster reflection and dialogue, as well as aspiration and achievement, among colleagues and students. To support their work, these Distinguished College Teachers will also receive a substantial stipend beyond their base salary.

Rationale: Columbia 2010 reaffirms the College's commitment to "develop a faculty and staff that advance student-centered arts and media education" (A.2). This initiative translates that promise into practice. Columbia's "Statement of Policy on Academic Freedom, Faculty Status, Tenure, and Due Process," repeatedly emphasizes that excellence, innovation, risk-taking, and "strong evidence of excellence in teaching and curricular development" should be expected, encouraged, and rewarded. This initiative translates that emphasis into a strategy that honors exceptional or sustained achievement in teaching within the contexts of an intellectual and creative community.

Responsibilities: When accepting an appointment, each Distinguished College Teacher will agree to develop a detailed plan for his/her two-year term, in consultation with the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence. While the details of individual plans may vary considerably, depending on the nature of the discipline and the arc of the individual's professional career, each Distinguished College Teacher will accept responsibility for:

- ◆ Pursuing significant new or continuing initiatives in teaching, advising, and curricular development;
- ◆ Making their teaching and learning principles and practices visible across campus and across disciplines, engaging colleagues and students beyond their own departments;
- ◆ Encouraging excellence; promoting reflective self-direction; and supporting the achievements of others as teachers and learners, within the contexts of the goals and mission of the College.

Criteria: Extraordinary dedication to teaching, determined by documented evidence of:

- ◆ Impact on and engagement with students; genuine and sustained excellence in teaching, within and beyond classroom walls;
- ◆ Commitment to the scholarship of teaching and learning: "A professional familiarity with appropriate educational methodologies and technologies, and a demonstrated commitment to promoting excellence as the hallmark of the educational experience at the College" (Tenure Document);
- ◆ The potential to develop and share new and important approaches to teaching, learning, advising, and/or curriculum during the period of appointment as Distinguished Teacher (timeliness: why now?);
- ◆ A curiosity and passion to cross departmental and disciplinary boundaries when generating and sharing approaches to teaching and learning across the College.

Selection Process: Department Chairs and Deans will nominate faculty members who meet the above criteria. Appointments will be at the discretion of the Provost, in consultation with Deans. Notification will be in spring, prior to the first academic year of the appointment. Tenured faculty members will be given preference in the selection process. A faculty member may receive more than one appointment as Distinguished College Teacher, but will not be considered until at least five years have elapsed since the completion of her/his last such appointment. No faculty member may self-nominate.

The selection process for the appointment of the 2006-07 Teaching Fellow is as follows: Department chairs may forward to their school deans the names of no more than two faculty members, providing a brief (no more than one page for each faculty member) statement on why the faculty member is being chosen for consideration. The statement should provide information about the quality of the faculty member's teaching over a sustained period of time (as evidenced in the Criteria) and that the faculty member will, if selected as a Teaching Fellow, carry out the Responsibilities of the Teaching Fellow as described above.

The school deans will review the names of the faculty members that have been sent forward and, from those, identify several they will nominate to the Provost. The deans will contact those faculty members, inform them that they have been "short listed" for the Fellowship, and seek additional information from the faculty members that the dean believes relevant to the selection process.

The deans will then write a brief recommendation for each nominee and send forward to the Provost with supporting materials.

The Provost will review the materials of all nominated faculty members, from which will be selected on Distinguished Teaching Fellow for the 2006-07 academic year. The appointment will be announced no later than March 3, 2006 and take effect with the start of the 2006-07 academic year.

Please Note: Beginning in spring 2007, this selection process may be modified in consultation and cooperation with the newly-formed Excellence in Teaching Committee of the College Council.