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Award for Excellence in Early Stage Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Purpose:

The OCAD Award for Excellence in Early Stage Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity recognizes promising, recently-appointed faculty members for their outstanding promise to be distinguished researchers, scholars, artists and designers within a university context. The goal of the program is to support the development of a culture of research, scholarship and creativity within OCAD.

Definitions and Guidelines

Definition:

Research, scholarship or creative activity is defined for this purpose to include those activities appropriate to the nominee's discipline and Faculty.

Nominations:

Deans, Program Chairs, or faculty members can make nominations for the award to the Vice-President Research & Graduate Studies by December 1st of each year.

Nominations which are unsuccessful in the initial year of submission may stand for two additional years without the need for resubmission under a new letter of support signed by three nominators. The Vice-President Research & Graduate Studies will seek the permission of the nominee in each year before the nomination will be included in a given competition. Nominees who choose to let their nomination stand in the current year may update their nomination packages prior to the competition deadline of December 1st to reflect any recent publications, awards, grants and additional evidence of outstanding research, scholarship and creative performance.

The Academic Council Committee on Research will review all eligible nominations and make recommendations to the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies who will make the final decision. Awards will typically be announced by the end of February.

Eligibility:

Only tenured or tenure-track faculty within the first eight years since the completion of their terminal degree **and** within five years of their first appointment as a faculty member, including limited term appointments, at any university or post-secondary education institution, are eligible for nomination.

Current members of the Academic Council Committee on Research are not eligible for nomination.

A faculty member is only eligible for one award during her/his tenure with OCAD.

Supporting Documentation:

Each nomination should include the following support documents:

- A letter of support for the nominee that highlights the achievements and potential contributions of the individual to her/his field of scholarship and creative activity and indicates in which format these accomplishments are documented in the accompanying materials.
- The letter of support will normally be signed by two (2) Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) faculty members and the Dean of Faculty.
- Full curriculum vitae in the form of OCAD, OCGS, or SSHRC
- Evidence of impact of research, scholarship and creative activity on the broad spectrum of art and design research and practice nationally and internationally.
- Evidence of contributions toward undergraduate and graduate student research and scholarly training (where applicable). Please identify the number of students supervised and the career paths of these students (e.g., graduate student at university x; senior designer in company y; curated exhibitions at gallery z).
- A three-page proposal that outlines the nominee's research or creative program over the next three years.
- Any evidence that the nominators or nominee wish to submit as support for outstanding research performance.
- List of three (3) external referees who may be asked to submit a written report (see attached form). Referees should be at arms-length although one may be the nominee's terminal degree supervisor.

Selection Committee:

The Vice-President Research & Graduate Studies shall receive nominations and supporting documentation. The Academic Council Committee on Research, or a sub-committee thereof, will review all dossiers and make appropriate recommendations to the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies.

The Committee on Research may recommend one outstanding individual to receive the Award in any one year.

The Award need not be made each year if, in the opinion of the Committee and the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies, there are no suitable candidates.

Award:

The award will consist of OCAD recognition of outstanding research achievements, acknowledged at a University function by the presentation of a diploma and monetary award in the form of a research grant (\$1000 Research Account for the support of research, scholarly and creative art and design projects). The monetary award cannot be used as additional salary.

The recipient is expected to deliver to the OCAD community a lecture/exhibition on a topic of interest to the recipient.

Criteria for Selection:

The selection criteria are

- The excellence of the nominee's contributions based on academic and employment record, research and artistic grants and awards received, publications and other examples of productivity;
- The nominee's current standing and potential for excellence in the research field based on research plans and letters of reference;
- Evidence of contributing consistently and significantly toward the training of graduate and undergraduate students (wherever applicable); and
- Excellence and originality of the proposed research based on the research plan.

Ontario College of Art and Design

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REFEREE REPORT ON NOMINEE

Instructions

You have been identified as a referee to provide a critical evaluation of the award nomination and the nominee's actual and potential contributions to the nominee's field of research, scholarship and creative activity.

The committee recognizes that some nominees have established track records and reputations in scholarship, while other nominees are emerging scholars. Your assessment should acknowledge the nominee's position within the research field.

Please comment on the following:

1) Describe any professional relationship that you have with the nominee (e.g., MFA, Ph.D. or post-doctoral supervisor).

2) Rate your professional knowledge of the nominee's field and your ability to assess the nominee's research program and scholarly record:

- Strong
- Satisfactory
- Weak

3) The committee seeks confirmation of the importance/promise of the nominee's research program and/or the high quality of the nominee's scholarly, research, and creative contributions or the potential of them, as demonstrated by peer-reviewed publications (e.g., peer-reviewed books, journal papers, conference presentations), juried exhibitions, and recordings or productions. Provide detailed comments on the following aspects of the nominee and the nominee's research program as appropriate, highlighting the strong and weak points.

a) Quality of the nominee and nominee's research program:

- Excellent (top 10th percentile in Canada)
- Outstanding (between top 10th and 20th percentile in Canada)
- Very good (between top 20th and 30th percentile in Canada)
- None of the above (below top 30th percentile in Canada)

b) Comment on the breadth, depth, and impact of the nominee's contributions or potential contributions in the case of new scholars (e.g., impact on the field, knowledge transfer, etc.) Assess the nominee's contributions to the nominee's field of scholarship or creative activity in the last five years. Specific references to other leading/emerging researchers in the nominee's field of scholarship are encouraged.

c) Comment on the originality or innovative aspects of the nominee's research program.

- d) Comment on the international stature of the nominee, if appropriate.
 - e) Comment on the nominee's contributions to training of research personnel (undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, etc.).
 - f) Comment on whether the nominee's research has had an impact outside of the nominee's chosen field of research. Describe this impact (e.g., changes to public policy, changes or improvements in professional practice, influences on other research or scholarly or artistic disciplines, etc.).
- 4) Comment on the significance of the nominee's recognitions or awards from scholarly or professional associations, if applicable.

Please send your completed Referee Report, by mail, fax or email to:

Dr. Michael Owen
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