

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

(AAPC Paper)

University-level Education Award

1. The Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award was established in 1999. The nomination process consists of each Dean of Faculty and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on General Education being invited to nominate three candidates, in strict priority order, from among the teaching staff based on the course and teaching evaluation results, student selection, teaching portfolios, peer assessments, etc. The nominations are considered by the Vice-Chancellor, who decides on the awardees – one for each Faculty and for General Education. A gold medal with the awardee's name embossed and a certificate are presented.
2. Until recently, recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award were recognized, together with recipients of the Young Researcher Award and the Postgraduate Research Output Award, in a joint ceremony dedicated for these awards. The awardees for 2010, however, were presented at the 69th Congregation on 1 December 2011 when first and master's degrees were conferred.
3. Nearly all Faculties also have their own Exemplary Teaching Awards, as does the Senate Committee on General Education. Whilst several academic staff members may receive the Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award, only one member of each Faculty will receive the Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award each year. However, both the Vice-Chancellor's and the Faculty Exemplary Teaching Awards are essentially awards at Faculty level. We do not at present have an award that recognizes contributions on education at the University level.
4. In 2010-11, the UGC established a UGC Teaching Award whereby each UGC-funded institution is invited to nominate up to two outstanding teachers for the award. Accordingly, the University drew up its internal process and criteria – albeit mirroring those of the UGC – for selecting the two nominees for the UGC Award. The process consists of self-nomination with each eligible staff member submitting a Teaching Portfolio for consideration. Deans of Faculties will help identify suitable colleagues and encourage them to put themselves forward for consideration. The selection process and criteria were truly University-wide and the selection panel was chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and comprised the Associate Deans (Education) for all Faculties and the Director of University General Education. The four selection criteria adopted were the same as those used by the UGC:
 - (a) Adoption of learner-centred approaches, ability to engage, inspire and impact on students
 - (b) Course/programme/curriculum design that can reflect a command of the field
 - (c) Scholarly activities and approach to learning and teaching
 - (d) Past/present achievements and leadership in teaching and potential scholarly contribution to the development of effective teaching practice.

5. As it turned out, one of the University's nominees actually received the UGC Teaching Award in 2011, together with someone at another institution. Both of our nominees were presented – as nominees of the UGC Teaching Award – at the 69th Congregation in the same ceremony as mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
6. The UGC is expected to continue with the UGC Teaching Award and we shall also support this endeavour by nominating outstanding teachers for the award for as long as the UGC will make the award. The absence of a University-level education award, coupled with the need to nominate teaching staff from across the University for the UGC Teaching Award, suggest that it may be timely to institute a University Education Award (or similar name). The number of awardees should be the same as that to be nominated for the UGC Teaching Award. In fact, the recipient(s) of the University Education Award will be nominated for the UGC Teaching Award under the same selection process and criteria. Whilst recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award are recognized primarily for their teaching performance, those receiving the University Education Award are commended more broadly for their contributions to enhance the student learning experience through curriculum design/development, scholarship in teaching and learning, as well as excellence in classroom teaching. The awardees will be presented at the Congregation each year, as in 2011, not as nominees of a UGC award, but by design as recipients of a University award.
7. The AAPC is invited to institute a University Education Award with effect from the 2011-12 academic year.

[Approved by the AAPC at its Second meeting (2012) held on 14 February 2012.]