



Policy Name:	USSU Teaching Excellence Awards Policy		
Category:	Academic Relations	Policy #	ARC-2

1. Preamble

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union is committed to celebrating the best that the University of Saskatchewan has to offer in terms of teaching, student involvement, leadership, and bettering the student experience. The Union dedicates itself to continual recognition of excellence, and this commitment is best realized with the annual USSU Excellence Awards.

2. Mission

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Excellence Awards are actualised through recognising leadership qualities in an individual that better both the academic and non-academic environment for the undergraduate students of the University of Saskatchewan.

3. Vision

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Excellence Awards are a result of students celebrating leadership through outstanding involvement and achievement at the University of Saskatchewan. These awards symbolize the USSU's commitment to excellence in teaching, student involvement, leadership, and bettering the student experience.

4. Teaching Excellence Awards

4.1 Each year the Union shall grant ten (10) awards for excellence in teaching called the Teaching Excellence Awards.

4.2 For a period of two weeks each regular term, the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for Teaching Excellence Awards are open for all current undergraduate classes.

4.2.1 There will be no Teaching Excellence Awards given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

4.3 The Union shall organize that all classes for which the instructor has been nominated shall, with the consent of the instructor, have the students of the class surveyed to help ascertain who the winners shall be.

4.4 Classes will not be surveyed if: the class is a graduate class, the form was not properly filled out, the instructor has won in the past five (5) years, or the class is not currently being offered.

4.5 All surveyed classes will have the results tabulated in order to ascertain the winners of the awards.

4.6 The normal allocation of awards is five (5) per regular academic term.

4.7 The five (5) per term standard may be changed to better reflect the number and quality of nominations received so long as the total is still ten (10).

4.8 A formal letter shall be sent on behalf of the Vice President Academic Affairs to each instructor that they have been nominated for an award (even if they have won in the past five (5) years) or that they have won an award.

4.9 This letter shall also be copied to the instructor's Department Head (if applicable) and the Dean of the College or Executive Director of the School.

4.10 The Executive will ratify the results of the surveys and the allocation of the awards.

5. Teaching Excellence – Instructional Support Awards

5.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in instructional support called the Teaching Excellence Award – Instructional Support.

5.1.1 Individuals eligible for this award are Teaching Assistants, Laboratory Coordinators, or other individuals involved in the academic aspect of class delivery that are not professors or lecturers.

5.2 For a period of two weeks each regular term the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award – Instructional Support are open for all current undergraduate classes.

5.2.1 There will be no Teaching Excellence Awards - Instructional Support given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

5.3 The Union shall organize that all laboratories/tutorials/seminars for which the instructional staff member has been nominated shall, with the consent of the instructional staff member, have the students of the laboratories/tutorials/seminars surveyed to help ascertain who the winner shall be.

5.3.1 Laboratories/tutorials/seminars will not be surveyed if: the class is a graduate class, the form was not properly filled out, the instructional staff member has won in the past five (5) years, or the class is not currently being offered.

5.4 All surveyed laboratories/tutorials/seminars will have the results tabulated in order to ascertain the winners of the award.

5.5 A formal letter shall be sent on behalf of the Vice President Academic Affairs to each instructional staff member that they have been nominated for the award (even if they have won in the past five (5) years) or that they have won the award.

5.5.1 If applicable, this letter shall also be copied to the instructional staff member's supervisor or superior.

5.6 The Executive will ratify the results of the surveys and the granting of the award.

6. Open Resources Initiative Award

6.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in transition to open book resources called the Open Resources Initiative Award.

6.2 This award is granted on the basis of commitment and dedication to the move away from paid educational resources (Homework systems, textbooks etc.) to open resources which fulfill the students educational needs.

6.3 For a period of two weeks each regular term the Vice President Academic Affairs shall publicly advertise that nominations for the Open Resources Initiative Award– Open Resources Initiative Award are open for all current undergraduate classes.

6.3.1 In addition to open nominations; students who complete surveys for instructors who were nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award will also be able to identify if their professor should be considered for the Open Resources Initiative Award as part of the survey.

6.3.2 There will be no Open Resources Initiative Award given for teaching done over the Spring and Summer terms.

6.4 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

6.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

7. Academic Advising Awards

7.1 Each year the Union shall grant one (1) award for excellence in academic advising called the Academic Advising Award.

7.2 On an annual basis, the Vice President, Academic Affairs shall ensure that the Union properly advertises the call for nominations for this award and that the Advising Council is aware that this award will be granted.

7.3 The award shall be granted determined on the criteria set out on the nomination form.

7.4 The Executive shall review all nominations that come forward and shall, in confidential deliberations, determine the winner of the award based on the nominations.

7.5 If no nominations are received for the award(s), the Executive, in confidential deliberations, may choose a winner for the award(s) or not grant an award.

8. USSU Excellence in Awards Ceremony

8.1 The USSU shall organize an annual awards celebration called the USSU Excellence Awards.

8.2 All of the Awards articulated in clauses 4 through 11 shall be presented at the USSU Excellence Awards.

8.3 The USSU Excellence Awards shall be a closed event with a limited number of attendees for each award recipient.

Contact Information:	Vice President Academic Affairs: (306) 966-6968		
Policy Authority:	Academic Relations Committee		
Approvals	Board/Committee	Date	Motion
Created/Adopted	Executive Committee	04/29/2014	EXEC41
Amended	Academic Relations Committee	03/11/2022	ARC008
Amended	Executive Committee	02/13/2023	EXEC104
Amended	Academic Relations Committee	03/10/2025	ARC001