

Report from the Chair, T. B. Greenfield Dissertation Award Committee February 29, 2016

The Committee

I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the following Committee members:

1. Dr. Gerald Fallon, University of British Columbia
2. Dr. Claire Lapointe, Université Laval
3. Dr. Roseline Garon*, Université de Montréal

*Due to conflict of interest with Dr. Marc Basque's dissertation completed at Université Laval, Dr. Roseline Garon served as a second reader.

Nominees and Adjudication Process

Nominations were accepted until January 8, 2016. Due to an oversight in the 2015 competition, Dr. Marc Basque's dissertation was considered with the seven nominations submitted for 2016. There were seven nominations in total as summarized in Table 1 (Appendix A). One was written in French. They were submitted electronically to the Chair. The nomination package included a letter of nomination, a 10-page summary of the dissertation written by the nominee, and an electronic copy of the dissertation. As it was decided last year, either the nominee or supervisor had to be active CASEA members at the time of submission; therefore, I confirmed this with the CASEA President before accepting the nomination.

The same criteria and rubric (Appendix B) used in the last two years was applied. The selection criteria as noted on the CASEA website included:

1. Significance of the challenge/research problem;
2. Justification of research design, including where appropriate methodology, theoretical and/or conceptual framework, and methods;
3. Appropriate command of relevant strands of literature;
4. Potential contribution to educational administration scholarship and/or practice; and,
5. Excellence in presentation (e.g. clarity of writing, error-free).

Reflections on Improvements Made for This Year

Last year I raised the challenge of forming a committee given workload pressures facing faculty today. Drs. Fallon and Lapointe volunteered at the AGM last year, and so this made it easy this year. Despite this, adjudication is a considerable time commitment.

Last year it was decided to include on the guidelines for submission that Departments/Faculties could submit up to two dissertations. In reflecting on this, I am repeating my recommendation to limit nominations to one per institution OR department. My rationale is that both nominations will not be awarded; therefore, it downloads the work of evaluating the dissertations to the Committee. It would make sense to provide the institution/department with the evaluation criteria to make a decision about which dissertation they wish to nominate if this happened in the future. I welcome feedback from the Membership on this suggestion.

Further, the Committee unanimously agreed that one of the nominated dissertations had questionable relevance to scholarship in educational administration. The dissertation was still included in the competition and read in its entirety. I welcome input from the Membership to alleviate this for the future.

Many thanks to Dr. Ken Brien, President, and the CASEA Executive, for their guidance and support throughout the process.

Bonnie Stelmach

Note that the full report, with the name of the recipient and the appendices, will be posted after our AGM.