

## Guidelines for Awarding the “Berninghausen Prize for Outstanding Teaching”

The University of Bremen and the “*unifreunde*” friends of the University of Bremen and Jacobs University (hereinafter *unifreunde*) annually award the Berninghausen Prize in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of university teaching. The prize is endowed by *unifreunde* in an amount of 6,000 euro.

Outstanding achievements in teaching are defined i.a. as:

- promoting and sustaining student motivation,
- ability to communicate complex issues,
- clear structuring of the course and modules,
- quality and topicality of the course contents,
- application of innovative didactic concepts,
- use of elaborated, structured and methodologically diverse teaching materials and application of appropriate teaching methods,
- linking teaching with current research,
- promoting independent, creative and critical thinking,
- promoting self-guided learning and consideration of future professional practice,
- facilitating access to advice and support beyond the class
- further involvement, for example through participation in university didactic training and extracurricular activities
- consideration of gender- and/or diversity-sensitive criteria

All members of the university are able to submit nominations for the Berninghausen Prize, whereby priority should be given to teaching within the normal curriculum.

The Academic Senate appoints a selection committee consisting of three university professors, two members of academic staff, one other staff member, and three students. The Commission is elected for a period of two years. The Vice President Academics chairs the Commission.

The annual call for nominations is carried out by the Vice President Academics. The selection committee may propose 2 or 3 special categories for which the prize is awarded in the respective year: In such an event of multiple categories, the prize money is shared proportionately.

The nominations are submitted to the Vice President Academics, who in consultation with the selection committee makes a pre-selection based on the criteria set out above and the criteria formulated for the respective categories.

The Commission then requests the *StugA* (departmental student committee) or the *Stugen* (departmental student committees, if the course is offered in several degree programs) in whose degree program the proposed course was offered, as well as the *StugO* (university-wide *Stuga* representation) to comment on the proposal. The Dean of Studies is informed of the nomination proposals and has the possibility to add a recommendation. In the light of these comments, the selection committee then reaches their decision.

The Vice President Academics informs the *unifreunde* and invites their comments. The Vice President Academics then submits the proposal(s) to the Academic Senate for approval. The AS passes a resolution, subsequently concluding the award procedure. The University of Bremen and the *unifreunde* award the prize on the basis of this decision.

The prize is awarded in a suitably festive frame. It is presented by a representative of the *unifreunde*. The eulogy, which refers to the grounds for selection, is delivered by the Vice President Academics, whereby students may also perform this function.

Resolution No. 7349 of the Academic Senate of June 18, 1997,  
Resolution No. 7589 of 17.11.1999, Resolution No. 7823 of April 17, 2002 and  
Resolution No. 8737 of February 24, 2016