Examples of selection panel feedback on unsuccessful teaching award applications

It may be useful for intending teaching award applicants to have access to feedback given by selection panels to unsuccessful applicants. The following excerpts are from written feedback provided by selection panels to those whose applications for a VC or an ALTC teaching award were not successful; these particular excerpts were selected because the issues they identify seem to be fairly typical in the teaching awards assessment process.

VC Awards

1. Whilst the [X] class was an impressive initiative ... the application did not provide any ... references to demonstrate an understanding of the scholarship of teaching. The Panel felt that more examples of how students were using [X] and what positive effects it was having on them were needed to evidence the claims. The application would have benefited from a more defined thematic structure.
2. The Panel felt that your application was well thought through but that the claims made did not reflect a connection with the activity in the classroom. More explanation of the diagrams was required, specifically how these apply to the claims in the application.
3. The Panel felt that your application reflected the positive response that students had to your teaching... [but it] needed to tease out what was special about your approach to teaching.
4. The Panel was impressed with the successful results you had achieved which were reflected in the student comments provided. The Panel felt however that the application did not provide enough of an insight into what was happening in the classroom and more reflection on the student learning experience was needed to demonstrate an engagement with the complexity and challenge of teaching. The application needed to show a link between the strategies you applied and the learning outcomes achieved.
5. The Panel recognised your dedication to teaching and commitment to your students but felt that your application was too dense and the evidence used to emphasise the claims was not linked appropriately to the relevant selection criteria. The application needed more coherence to be able to make more of an impact.
6. The Panel felt that your application reflected your enthusiasm for teaching but the claims and evidence addressing criteria [#] and [#] needed strengthening. There needed to be more of a match between the claims about the teaching approach and the evidence supplied about the application of these approaches in the classroom.

ALTC Awards

1. This is a good nomination which would be strengthened by demonstrating clearly the impact of the nominee’s teaching approach on student learning outcomes. Better support materials needed with better linking to the nomination.
2. The program has clearly produced some good resources. The nomination would be strengthened by provision of more evidence of systematic embedding of the resources in the curriculum and their impact on student learning and engagement.
3. The nominee is clearly a thoughtful, committed and caring teacher however the nomination does not demonstrate how the work is distinctive or outstanding.