

Student and Faculty Honors Committee Meeting Minutes

18 March 2005

8:30-10:30am

130 Hulihan Hall

1. Mohsen Badiy opened the meeting with complimentary remarks about the summary statistics Linda made available.
2. The members deliberated on the Excellence in Teaching Awards. Members ranked their top four finalists. After some discussion about the candidates, the committee selected four: Michael Greenberg (Mechanical Engineering), Paul Head (Music), Gerard Hoefling (Psychology), and Amy Johnson (Nursing).
3. Mohsen reported on his interviews with several students who marked “solicited” when they nominated one of the TA candidates. He stated that in his opinion the candidate was clear of any wrongful solicitation of nominations, although he noted that students may have organized and solicited votes on his behalf. Rhonda pointed out that her informal survey of foreign students showed that they did not know what “solicited” meant, and several committee members acknowledged that the language may have posed a problem. Linda suggested that the nomination form be revised to correct that problem.
4. The committee deliberated on the Excellence in Teaching Awards for Teaching Assistants and selected Jorge Garcia (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and Therese Rizzo (English).
5. The committee next deliberated on the Excellence in Advising Awards. Michelle Provost-Craig recused herself from the meeting, as she was a finalist for this award. After some discussion about the strength of evidence for these candidates, Bob asked whether the committee could select just one recipient, since one nominee stood out so clearly from the others. Linda answered in the affirmative, and the committee agreed to issue just one Excellence in Advising Award this year: Brian Hanson (Geography).
6. Mohsen confirmed the seven winners of the three awards.
7. The committee addressed the burgeoning Honors Day book. Mohsen went through the requests for inclusion one by one, and the process led to some discussion about differentiating between “scholarships” and “awards.” Only the latter are eligible for inclusion. Bob and Linda proposed that the difference was one of “past performance” as opposed to “future support.” Later, further potential differences over the process of recipients as well as between “scholarship” and “leadership” were posited. Katharine recommended the committee take up this issue at a later meeting, and Bob and Linda agreed. For now, Bob suggested the committee tell current applicants that the entire book’s content is under review, but he acknowledged that removing current listings would be difficult.

8. Finally, Bob mentioned the Provost had mentioned that he would like to alter the timing of the Allison Award. Currently, the winner does not receive recognition until six months after being named and does not give his/her Alison lecture until the following spring. The Society has suggested the Award winner be named in the fall. Katharine suggested the committee keep the current nominating schedule, but that it could consider holding those nominations for selection in the fall. Linda noted that scheduling problems in the fall and annual turnover on the committee could prevent this new calendar. All agreed the committee would discuss this issue at a later meeting. Linda and Mohsen were to meet with the Provost for more detail on his comments and would report back to the committee.

9. The committee adjourned at 10:35AM.

Submitted by Ken Cohen