

Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty and Student Honors

Minutes

September 15, 2006

8:30-10:00am

130 Hullahen Hall

Present: Rhonda Hyde, Katharine Kerrane, Bob Davis, Aparna Bagdi

1. Meeting was called to order by Rhonda, who began by summarizing the last meeting from last spring. Rhonda will try to reconstruct the minutes from the May 12, 2006 meeting and present them to the committee for approval.
2. Rhonda reported that this year the committee has four basic responsibilities:
 - Select the Alison award winner
 - Select the teaching and advising award recipients
 - Revise the Honors Day program
 - Participate in a Faculty Senate review of the committee
3. Alison award: There was agreement that no unresolved issues needed to be addressed in this regard. It was noted that last year's dossiers were more thorough and complete than previous years.
4. Teaching and advising awards: The committee needs to reword some of the statements in the nomination forms. For example, the term "solicited" may need further clarification. It was suggested that "rigorous" be used instead of "knowledgeable" as one of the criteria for excellence in teaching. This issue will be brought up at the next meeting.

The eligibility of certain faculty members for the teaching and advising awards was discussed briefly. The committee felt that it would be appropriate to check if faculty members in specific roles are winning a disproportionate number of awards in their main area of work (e.g. undergraduate advisors winning advising awards). This issue needs to be discussed in more detail.

5. Bob reported that there are new criteria for inserting awards into the Honors Day booklet. These criteria include:
 - a. Scholarships with endowments of \$25,000 or more
 - b. Commitment of at least \$1000 for a minimum of 5 years
 - c. Historic honors and awards (e.g. best Honors thesis)

He reiterated that all awards included in the Honors Day program must be based on academic merit and that he will send out the new criteria for awards to all colleges.

Bob also noted that the committee needs to go through each award that is currently included in the Honors Day and decided whether or not they meet the above-mentioned criteria. Katharine volunteered to help with this task.

6. IT issues: Rhonda reported that yearly maintenance of the database and webpage was conducted over the summer. Pictures and information about the 2006 award winners have been loaded on to the webpage. Karren Helsel-Spry can now upload documents to this site. Mohsen will submit the annual report from last year to be loaded on this site.

Rhonda brought up the concern about the integration of PeopleSoft with the current online nomination system. With all the issues around course registration that occurred this fall, she was concerned about a similar breakdown with the award nomination system. Rhonda reported that IT had assured her that nomination forms will continue to work as before. However, there needs to be some prep work on our end in that faculty records from HR need to be loaded on to the nomination system. Rhonda is working on retrieving lists of eligible faculty for teaching and advising awards.

7. A brief discussion about reaching more student groups and alumni for award nominations ensued. The committee felt that it will be important to get nomination information out to student groups, fraternities and sororities, and service oriented clubs.
8. Rhonda will provide the committee with details about Faculty Senate's review of this committee. It was decided that the committee should request that Karren Helsel-Spry be asked to attend each meeting to take minutes and assist committee members with basic tasks.
9. Meeting times for all future meetings this year have been changed to 8:45-10:00am. Dates and location remain the same.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Aparna Bagdi