

University Programs & Awards Committee

SUNY University Faculty Senate

Plenary Meeting
February 2009
Morrisville State College

The Awards Committee met by teleconference on November 19, 2008. The following summarizes the main issues we discussed.

Conversations in the Disciplines:

- The Committee will hold a teleconference on March 20, 2009, to discuss the review of CID proposals. We will discuss review guidelines, management of the online review process, and review process to expect at our in-person selection meeting in Binghamton on May 9, 2009.
- At the Binghamton meeting we will also discuss any needed revisions for subsequent guidelines, any needed revisions to the review process, and whether the website currently housed at Brockport is 'ready' to be transferred to System Administration.

Chancellor's Excellence Awards:

- It was announced that plans to create a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the Classified Service have been finalized and guidelines for 2008-2009 have been sent to campuses. These new Awards will recognize 'superior performance and extraordinary achievement by employees in the Classified Service'. Recipients will receive a personal certificate of recognition and a Chancellor's Excellence Medallion. For State-operated campuses, Valerie J. Ayers, Assistant Director of Employee Relations at System Administration will be the contact person. The University Faculty Senate Awards Committee will not be involved with aspects of this new award.
- The Committee discussed several other issues, foremost of which was the topic of Awards for those with qualified academic rank (e.g., adjunct, visiting, research, clinical professors, among others). Since their inception, the Excellence Awards have only been for full-time tenured or tenure-track instructional faculty. Many campuses continue to seek clarification on this point even though the guidelines have been refined several times to clarify and emphasize this point. In recognition of a desire from many campuses to recognize part-time or qualified academic rank faculty, the Committee shared how their campuses recognized these individuals. Some campuses do have local awards for part-time/qualified academic rank faculty. Following a period of sharing information and discussing the various options, the Committee expressed little enthusiasm for creating another category of Chancellor's Awards. Accordingly, the Committee encourages the creation of campus-based awards to recognize excellence for individuals not covered by the existing Excellence Awards.

- The Awards' guidelines require nominated individuals to have been in three consecutive years of full-time service just prior to a nomination. An unintended consequence has been a delay in nominating individuals who had certain leaves (e.g., sabbatical, maternity, or similar). The Committee adopted new language to allow campuses to create nominations based upon achievements from at least three years of full time service out of the five years just prior to nomination.
- Based upon comments and inquiries from some campuses, it was revealed that a few Chancellor's Awards have been given to individuals who were not technically eligible. In an attempt to prevent this in future, the transmittal forms from campuses will be modified to seek a nominated individual's official SUNY title and tenured/tenure track status.

Distinguished Faculty Ranks:

- System Liaison Kraushaar is fairly new to oversight of the distinguished faculty ranks review process at the System level. The long standing process has been that the nominations for Distinguished Teaching or Distinguished Service Professor were reviewed by ad hoc groups of individuals of equivalent rank who rated the individuals, but did not discuss or vote on the nominated individuals. This is in contrast to the nominations for Distinguished Professor. The DP nominations have gone to an Advisory Council who discuss and vote upon the nominations. Liaison Kraushaar has attempted to bring some uniformity to the evaluations for all distinguished faculty ranks by creating comparable Advisory Councils for all ranks. This will allow for a more thorough and transparent review of nominations.

Future Meetings:

- March 20, 2009 – Conference call about CID review training.
- May 9, 2009 – CID review and selection meeting in Binghamton.

Members & Liaisons:

- Sandra D. Michael (chair), Binghamton
- Valentin Brimkov, Buffalo State
- Karen Bromley, Binghamton
- Iris Cook, Westchester CC
- Kulathur Rajasethupathy, Brockport
- Nand Relan, Stony Brook
- Alfred Stamm, Oswego
- Reneta Barneva, Fredonia
- Larry Labinski, U Buffalo
- Linda Hamell, ESC
- Danniell Marrone, Farmingdale
- Jack Termine, Downstate Medical
- Robert, Kraushaar, System (Awards & Promotions)
- Catherine Regan, Conversations in the Disciplines