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Functions and Awards committee minutes from Nov. 13 2015.

Noon - 1pm, Prairie lounge.

Present: Peter Bremer, Sam Daniewicz, Karen Ellis, Janell Kolden, Tom Johnson, Michael Lackey, Elena Machkasova (chair, minute taker), Alicia Schewe.

Absent: Amanda Roach.

Minutes from October 30 were approved unanimously.

Recommendations for the 2017 UMM Commencement Speaker were discussed, committee members added some suggestion. The list of recommendations for the Chancellor was compiled.

The committee unanimously voted to **extend the nominations for the UMMAA Teaching Award to November 30th** since the original deadline was Nov 27th, during the Thanksgiving break.

Discussion of the **Faculty Distinguished Research Award**: the following **updates** to the draft were proposed based on feedback from the Division Chairs and the Dean (by email):

1. Remove an explicit requirement that at least two members of the selection committee are women. Rationale: the previous sentence "Composition of the committee is predicated on the desire to maintain the high standard for the award and to represent the campus diversity" already implies representing gender diversity of campus faculty.
2. Removed the restriction of no more than two candidates from every Division since this would make Division Chairs pre-select nominees if there are more than two.
3. Replace "Nominations come from divisions via Division Chairs" with "The names of nominees are put forward by faculty and submitted to the F&A committee and to the nominee's Division Chair". Rationale: nominators may be from other divisions, and the process would be more open if nominations can be made to the DC and to the F&A chair at the same time.
4. Add the statement "The letters are valid for three years" in reference to letters of support.

The suggestions were discussed and unanimously approved.

The further steps for the Faculty Distinguished Research Award proposal were discussed: This proposal will be next presented to the DCs and the Dean at a meeting. Elena will meet with the current members of the selection committee to explain the reasons for changes and to get their feedback on the proposal. After that the proposal will be presented for information and feedback at the campus assembly on Dec 1st.

Discussion of **Scholar of the College criteria** for Spring 2016:

It's been decided to remove the following items from the criteria:

1. "Submitted manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal that is under review" (nominating students with submitted papers is ok, as long as the decision is known by the SoC selection time). Rationale: submitting doesn't guarantee acceptance, so it's not an accomplishment by itself.
2. "Presentation at UMM URS", provided that there were only very few students in 2015 who were awarded SoC based on URS alone (the committee will look up the data). Rationale: there are about 50-60 presenters at the URS every year, technically they are all qualified, but this goes against the purpose of SoC.
3. "Accepted presentation at URS" - the same conditions and rationale as above.

It's also been decided to change the wording of the first item so that it has positive language (students who have scholarly/artistic work beyond the classwork and at least one the following items are qualified, rather than stating that those with scholarly work for classes alone are not qualified).

The meeting adjourned at 1pm.