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Functions and Awards minutes 03/23/2018

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March 23rd 2018, 10:30am, Moccasin Flower room.

Present: Lisa Bevevino, Andrew Brichacek, Karen Ellis (Special Events Coordinator), Bonnie Gulbrandson, Michael Lackey, Tiernan Lenius, Elena Machkasova (chair, minutes), Michelle Schamp, Parker Smith.

1. *Approval of minutes from Feb 23rd meeting* - minutes approved.
2. *Selecting the winner of the Edson Award*: the committee unanimously selected Salvi Alam as the winner of the 2018 Edson award.
3. *Selecting a subcommittee for the Mary Martelle Memorial Award* - the subcommittee was selected: Bonnie Gulbrandson, Michael Lackey, Tiernan Lenius.
4. *Forming a jury for the Edith Rodgers Farrell Memorial Award* - after extending the deadline, we have 2 nominations. The jury will include Elena Machkasova as a committee representative. She will invite faculty from two of the other divisions to serve on the jury; faculty in the earlier stages of their academic careers are the best candidates.
5. *Update on the research mentorship award*. Elena: the proposed mentorship award has been discussed with the Dean Janet Ericksen and will be discussed by the Division Chairs. Changes are being made to make sure that the award is equally open to faculty from all four divisions. It has also been suggested to seek funding from the alumni association. Elena will reach out to alumni relations to explore this option. It's been emphasized that funding is essential for establishing the award since it shows true respect for the mentorship achievements.
6. *Discussion of the Scholar of the College criteria*. In 2018 round of Scholar of the College nominations a nomination from Dance was not recommended for an award. The student created and choreographed a dance and presented it at a regional college dance conference (American College Dance Association). For the adjudication concert at the conference (where the dance is presented) there are dance professionals that provide students with formal feedback after the performance. However, students' work is nominated to the conference only by the student's mentor. This doesn't fit the scholar of the college criteria which requires selection based on non-UMM experts' review.
Elena has discussed this with Stephanie Ferrian, the dance faculty at UMM. Stephanie pointed out that although getting into the conference does indeed require only nomination from the students' institution, the conference is very selective and high quality. Elena thinks that the student's effort and contributions to get into this conference are equivalent to what other students do to present at conferences in their areas. However, formally the review process comes after the performance, not before. It has been pointed out that the Scholar of the College criteria are clear about the selection process for the venue, and that perhaps next time faculty can encourage students to perform at a venue where non-UMM experts participate in the selection process. A member pointed out that NCUR includes dance and may be a possible

venue. Elena will continue discussion with Stephanie Ferrian about the SoC criteria and their applicability to dance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Summary of an email discussion about the Larson award - selecting nominees for the ballot for the Larson award. The committee put together a shortlist of 6 nominees by combining each committee member's top 3 candidates. Then the committee discussed approaches for narrowing it down to 2 or 3 for the ballot. One student clearly had the most nominators and the most substantiated nomination. In order to select other(s) for the ballot, the committee decided (by the majority vote, conducted by email) that the substantiation of the nomination (the reason why the student deserves the distinction and would good as the commencement speaker) mattered more than the mere number of different nominators. Based on these criteria, Ruby DeBellis and Genevieve Berendt were selected for the ballot as clearly standing out based on their nominations.

Post-meeting note: In addition to Elena Machkasova, Joseph Beaver and Tom Genova agreed to serve on the Edith Rodgers Farrell Memorial Award jury.