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Functions and Awards Committee (Inactive)

Campus Governance

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Functions and Awards minutes 12/13/2018

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Functions and awards
Dec 13 2018, 11:40am-12:40pm
Welcome Center 210

Members present: Lisa Bevevino, Andrew Brichacek, Bonnie Gulbrandson, Brandon King, Elena Machkasova (chair), Steven Morgan, Michelle Schamp.

Members absent: Kellcee Baker

Guests: Susan Schmidgall, Bill Robb (Office of Advancement) - for item 1

In these minutes:

- 1. Honorary Naming proposal***
- 2. Approving a shortlist for the Chancellor for the 2020 Commencement speaker***
- 3. Feedback from the Alumni Relations on request for funding for the proposed UMM Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research or Creative Activity***
- 4. Update on the Teaching Award and Research Award names put forward***
- 5. Next semester committee tasks and plans.***

Honorary Naming proposal: Susan Schmidgall, Bill Robb (Office of Advancement) summarized the rationale for a proposed naming on campus. The supporting materials included letters of support, historic documents (newspaper copies, letters, photographs). After the materials were presented the committee thanked the guests for putting together a well-supported nomination. The questions were asked about the timeline. The hope was to have a dedication in time for the 2019 UMN Morris commencement. The committee and the guests discussed the timeline.

After the guests left the committee proceeded with the discussion:

- The committee agrees that honoring the person with a naming on campus is appropriate.
- The discussion focused on the location: is this the most appropriate location to honor this person? It was agreed that more information was needed. It is possible that the Office of Advancement has already done some work on this, but we don't know that. Also, have other similar historical figures been considered? Again, this may've been considered when the nomination was put together, but we don't know that.
- The timeline was also discussed. According to the policy on honorary naming, if the naming is approved, it is then forwarded to the UMN Morris Chancellor, and then brought to the Campus Assembly for approval. If it were to be dedicated for the 2019 commencement, this process needs to take place early in the spring semester.
- It was **moved and seconded to approve the honorary naming on campus for the person suggested, but to get more information about the choice of the location.** The motion passed unanimously.

Approving a shortlist for the Chancellor for the 2020 Commencement speaker. The suggestions put forward by the students have been discussed. In this process the committee focused on the following criteria:

- The number of nominations for a particular speaker and the strength of justification in the nomination,
- Merit of the nomination,
- Benefit to the graduating class of having this speaker (are they a good speaker? Are there reasons to believe that they have inspiring/interesting things to say?)
- Connections to Minnesota in general and to UMN Morris in particular.

The **shortlist of 3 names** has been suggested. **The motion was made and seconded to approve the list. The motion passed.** Elena will prepare the list for the Chancellor with justifications. The list (specific justifications) will be voted on by email.

Feedback from the Alumni Relations on request for funding for the proposed UMM Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research or Creative Activity In response to the FacPaac member Bibhu Panda, as well as an earlier request from Elena Machkasova, the Alumni Relations Coordinator, in consultation with her supervisor, Director of Advancement, responded the following: *We have some concerns about the sustainability of such an award funded by the Alumni Association, as that budget is based each year off of gifts from donors. Therefore, it is impossible to know from year-to-year what will be brought in. So while I cannot recommend the Alumni Association fund this award, or create a new award as Elena asked, I am willing to bring a combination of your and Elena's requests to the UMMAA board. Perhaps we could alternate every other year between the UMMAA Teaching Award and a research award, or add this or similar criteria to what already exists for an award but not take away from the award.*

The committee discussed the response. The following points were brought up:

- The point of the proposed award is to highlight the importance of mentoring undergraduate research and creative activity. It is different in nature from the Teaching award or Research Award. Thus alternating these awards would not be appropriate.
- The UMMAA Teaching award and Faculty Distinguished Research Award, in addition to honoring faculty on this campus, also may serve as preparation for the Morse and McKnight UMN awards. Skipping years on these awards would diminish UMN Morris faculty opportunities to be awarded these prestigious all-University awards.
- It would be possible to ask for smaller amount for the new proposed award or skip years when the funding is not available (perhaps start with every other year). It's not ideal, but it would be a start.
- It has been **moved and seconded to continue working with FacPaac on trying to secure the funding from Alumni Association** (based on the suggestions above) and **to bring it to the association board.** The motion passed.

Update on the UMMAA Teaching Award and Faculty Distinguished Research Award names put forward. Elena informed the committee that there were several names put forward for the Teaching award. She is working with HR to confirm the eligibility and with the nominators

to make sure that nominating committees are formed as required. There was one nomination for the Faculty Distinguished Research Award.

Next semester committee tasks and plans. Elena mentioned the timelines for the awards and which awards will be discussed at which meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm

Submitted by Elena Machkasova

Approved on April 25th 2019