

Recommendations

Awards & Recognitions Task Force

Introduction

Task Force Official Charge:

“This task force will review the current awards and recognitions for students, faculty, and staff within our division (with the exception of individual department awards), as well as the processes for nomination and selection. In addition to forming recommendations about our approaches to current awards and recognitions, the task force will also be asked to identify important areas of professional achievement in Academic Affairs that deserve to be recognized and possible venues for such recognitions.”

Based on data collected by an electronic survey completed by 159 individuals on campus, one open forum, review of current awards structures and procedures, and several one-on-one interviews, this Task Force has formulated the following recommendations regarding campus awards and recognitions.

Recommendations

Committee Structures

- Unless otherwise stated in an existing award committee policies, award committee members should rotate on/off based on determined term limits and the terms should be staggered
- Award committees should include more than one individual knowledgeable in the area of the award category (e.g. more than one faculty member to assess teaching)
- If there is a committee member from the nominee's department, then that person should recuse him/herself from the selection process
- Increase the visibility of the committee selection process via open elections and/or a call for those interested in serving

Award Selection Process & Selection Criteria

- Criteria for award selection should be clear and made publicly available to the campus community and potential award candidates

Communication:

- Create a central website to 'house' information regarding the awards, application process, list of past winners, etc. Perhaps create a "Campus Recognition" page that is accessible to the entire campus community (linked from the front page of the campus site)
- Establish alternative ways to share information to those who do not have access to computer/e-mail by identifying individuals in departments who can disseminate awards announcements in hard-copy

Awards Ceremony/Recognition of Award Winners

- Create an opportunity for award winners to do a presentation or another type of outreach 'based' on the received award (like the Kasling and President's recipients)
- Create an all encompassing "Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony" (but, not to remove current award ceremonies that exist)

Other

- Review and follow the SUNY guidelines with regard to the Chancellor's Award
- Encourage mentoring for possible award nominees

New Awards

- An award for excellence among the adjunct faculty. Maybe one for full-time and one for part-time.
- Perhaps an award for working with first-year students? This could be for teaching, for freshmen seminars and could also include student affairs folks.
- Undergraduate student mentoring. All F/T and P/T faculty are eligible. The applications are evaluated on the basis of the quantity and quality of supervised projects, student presentations, and publications (including concerts and exhibitions). Also innovation in mentoring undergraduate student research.
- Graduate student mentoring. All F/T and P/T faculty are eligible. The applications are evaluated on the basis of the quantity and quality of supervised projects, student presentations, and publications (including concerts and exhibitions). Also innovation in mentoring graduate student research.
- Best graduate thesis. All graduate students graduating the same year are eligible. The judgment is done on the basis of the impact and significance of the thesis.
- Innovations in Teaching Award
- Award for "newer" faculty and staff (within the first 3-5 years of employment): "Pathfinders"
- Volunteer/Service Award for faculty and staff