

Faculty Senate

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Student Recognition & Awards Committee

Annual Report 2008-2009

TO: Paul Doescher, President
OSU Faculty Senate

FROM: Troy Snow, Co-Chair;
Janet Nishihara, Co-Chair
Tip Ryan, Ex-Officio

DATE: June 25, 2009

RE: Annual Report of the Student Recognition and Awards Committee

2008-09 Committee Members:

Faculty/Staff

Laurie Bridges '11
Dr. Kathy Greaves '11
Drew Desilet '11 – New Committee Co-Chair
Cori Hall '09 – Replacement TBD
Janet Nishihara '10 – Co-Chair
Skip Rochefort '09 – Will continue on Committee – 2012
Dave Fehring '11
Richard Sapon-White '09 – Replacement TBD
Troy Snow '09, Co-Chair – Replacement TBD
Brian Woods '10

Students

Jill Ferris	Eric Wilkerson
Kevin Hopper	Kari Varin
Torri Rinker	Warren Gray
Alisha DeVogle	Heather Bennett
Josh Makepeace	Meagan Thomas
Lindsay Taylor	Chon Madrigal
Desiree Segura and Jacob Whitehead	

The committee recommends the following faculty/staff members for the committee (these folks have been asked and have expressed interest in serving)

TBD

The Posted Faculty Senate Standing Rules for this Committee are:

The Student Recognition and Awards Committee coordinates awards that are all-University in nature and that are awarded by faculty to students. The Committee also plans and conducts, with the support of the ex-

officio, an assembly or other appropriate program for the presentation of these awards to their recipients. The ex-officio works closely with the committee and is responsible for the tasks associated with the all-university recognition and awards program. The committee is responsible for selecting the recipients of the Drucilla Shepard Smith Scholastic Awards, the Clara H. Waldo and E.A. Cummings Outstanding Student Awards and the AAUW Senior Woman of the Year Award. The Committee consists of ten Faculty, eight Students, and a representative from Financial Aid, ex-officio, non-voting.

Report

The Student Recognition and Awards Executive Team of the SRAC Committee (co-chairs and ex-officio member) met many times throughout the year to outline, organize and lay the groundwork for selecting and awarding the Waldo-Cummings Awards, Drucilla Shepard Smith Awards and AAUW Woman of the Year award. The Executive team also organized and implemented the awards ceremony for these awards as well as a number of other University Awards including:

- AAUW Senior Woman Recognition:
- E.C. Allworth Leadership Award
- E.C. Allworth Cultural Awareness Leadership Award
- Robert MacVicar Exceptional Service Award
- Mortar Board Jameson Award
- Michael J Palmer Award
- Provost's Literary Prize:
- Clara L. Simmerville Award
- Dr. JoAnne Trow Woman of Distinction Award
- Grace Wu Memorial Award

The bulk of the committee work for the Student Recognition Committee is to review the many WALDO CUMMINGS applications submitted by students and to assist with the award event. Student Recognition committee members provided input on a variety of aspects of committee work related to actual applications for the Waldo-Cummings awards as well as the selection process for the WC awards. Committee member's main responsibilities are the review of applications, selection of interviewees for the awards, the selection of the awardees and honorable mentions, and assisting with the award presentations at the annual awards event. Committee members met with the executive team in February and March to help determine appropriate application materials and other event details.

In early April, an e-mail was sent to all GPA qualified students with a link to the on-line application for the Waldo Cummings award. As applications were received via the on-line form, each committee member began the screening process for their assigned class group. This year, 264 students submitted applications for the Waldo-Cummings awards. Awards and Honorable mentions are given at the Awards event to 12 first-year students, 12 sophomores, 20 juniors and 20 seniors.

The 'All University Student Awards Reception and Dessert' was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Award winners, their families and many campus dignitaries were at the banquet including President and Mrs. Ray, Provost Randhawa and his spouse Uzma, Larry Roper, Luanne Lawrence, and many college Dean's or their designates as well as various faculty and staff. Awardee information can be found in [Appendix B](#).

An E-mail/hold the date request was sent to the President, Provost, VPs, Deans, their administrative assistants, and other major stakeholders in early January to ensure that they had a block on their schedules for the event. Reminders were sent in late winter term and then a more formal invitation was sent a month before the event.

Class committee groups for 2008-09 were as follows

First-year Committee members: Faculty/Staff: Janet Nishihara, Educational Opportunities Program; Troy Snow, Department of Recreational Sports; and Kathy Greaves, Human Development and Family Sciences. Students: Jill Ferris, Eric Wilkerson and Kevin Hopper.

Sophomore Committee members: Faculty/Staff: Skip Rochefort, Pre-College Programs/ Engineering; Dave Fehring, Department of Recreational Sports; and Laurie Bridges, Valley Library. Students: Kari Varin, Torri Rinker and Warren Gray.

Junior Committee members: Faculty/Staff: Cori Hall, Saturday Academy, and Brian Woods, Nuclear Engineering. Students: Alisha DeVogle, Heather Bennett and Josh Makepeace.

Senior Committee members: Faculty/Staff: Richard Sapon-White, Valley Library and Drew Desilet, University Housing and Dining Services. Students: Meagan Thomas, Lindsay Taylor, Chon Madrigal, Desiree Segura and Jacob Whitehead.

In the past there were several roadblocks encountered by the committee... **Summary of recommendations from 2007-08 Report:**

- The 2008-09 committee will be co-chaired – with the most recent past senior chair serving as an advisor to the incoming chair.
- The 2009-10 committee will be co-chaired – with the most recent past senior chair serving as an advisor to the incoming chair.
- Changes were made to the wording of the application to allow students to make better informed decisions about the application and what needs to be included on the application.
- Check box on the application was formed to let students know that confidential information, including GPA and hometown could be announced at the awards banquet.
- The on-line application format for the Waldo Cummings awards will be further refined.
- It is recommended that the University Advancement Office provide on-going funding to ensure that this event meets the needs of the university for the appropriate recognition of excellence in scholarship, service and student engagement. This is something that was started in 2008-09, but is in jeopardy because of the Financial Aid Office wanting more control of the event.

To address concerns we implemented the following over the last two years and refined some strategies this year:

1. Added the following **wording on the application** to help students make more informed choices about their class standing during the application process:
“Advanced placement or college credit taken during high school should NOT be included to determine class standing for the purpose of this award application. If you are a 1st, 2nd. Or 3rd year student with greater than the number of credits listed in the class standing question, but will NOT graduate until your fourth year, you may still apply by your ‘year in school’ instead of the number of credits. If you feel there is a discrepancy between your ‘credit’ class standing and your year in school, select the ‘year in school category.’ For example, if you entered OSU with AP and/or junior college credits and are graduating in June but only have 90 OSU term credits you should apply as a senior. Note. Applicants may receive the Waldo-Cummings award only ONCE per class standing category.

Tip Ryan, the SRAC Ex-Officio Liaison, provided invaluable assistance in the process by providing class committees with details necessary to inform their work regarding the appropriate class group for a student

While we still had a few snags, overall the process for interpreting class standing eligibility for the awards seems to have been a success.

A sample of the application can be found in [Appendix C](#)

2. Last year (2006-07) we **implemented an ‘on-line’ application process.** The ‘on-line’ form was developed by Chris White, UHDS. Chris is prepared to host this form into the future and is ready to make any changes needed that the committee requires. He has indicated that it is not something he can ‘transfer’ to faculty senate – but that it would be easy to replicate using a simple on-line forms tool through computing services. A prototype of the application is included as an addendum to this report.

Recommendation for next year – we need to make changes to the application – specifically we need to add a statement regarding the release of information on the application. Because the awards ceremony is a public event, students need to be apprised that information which may be non-directory information will be announced at the event if they are in the award groups. We recommend that the following be added to the information section of the Waldo-Cummings Outstanding Student Award Application:

Applicants are advised that award details – including, but not limited to, cumulative GPA, major, academic department and other awards information may be announced at the Awards event and/or used in promotional materials. We also recommend having a check-box on the application if students do not wish to have information used or released.

3. Another area of improvement was **getting ASOSU to appoint students to the committee**. The Chairs and Ex-Officio began meeting in early October to strategize on this issue. We began the process of recruiting students in the fall term – and had a record number of student participants. Several of our student committee members were recruited by faculty/staff on the committee – which is a great model as long as we have a diversity of faculty/staff committee members. ASOSU was very involved and responsive this year to our needs for processing student applications for the committee.
4. We realized this year that our student members had access to a plethora of non-directory information as a result of their involvement on this committee. **We implemented an orientation for student committee members that included some training on FERPA and a confidentiality statement.** Included as [Appendix A](#) is a copy of the confidentiality statement used.
5. Another issue that arose in the past involved the **Drucilla Sheppard students attending the event**. We moved to a model this year of recognizing all the Drucilla Sheppard awardees – while it added a few minutes to the program we wanted to ensure that all students were publicly recognized for their academic achievement of a 4.0 for their academic career. We had nearly 250 RSVPs for the event – with approximately 230 in attendance. Several students were unable to attend due to mid-terms.
6. This year we provided **one complementary guest for each student for a faculty member, advisor or mentor to join them**. We also allowed students to bring two additional guests at a very nominal cost. This helped us have a much better turnout of faculty/advisors at the event. To help make it easier to **RSVP, students and guests were able to RSVP utilizing an on-line survey process using the BSG survey tool**. This provided committee chairs with up to the minute tracking of who had RSVP'd and guest names. Utilizing this RSVP method has streamlined the process for tracking who will be in attendance and has resulted in the elimination of the need for tickets at the event. One snag this year was check-in at the event – as we did not have enough tables to spread students and guests out to get them quickly through the check-in process.
7. Providing **name-tags to all students and guests** was another item that we refined this year – providing more possibilities for conversation among faculty and guests.
8. Due to feedback from Provost Sabah Randhawa and a few faculty last year, we **implemented a 'Reserved Table'** model for our special awardees and their faculty hosts/sponsors. This allowed us to have students seated with high ranking university officials – again providing more interaction for students with administrators and award sponsors.

Committee Co-chairs and the ex-officio member were in dialog on several occasions this year with the Faculty Senate President regarding event management and budget for the awards event. Some of our recommendations for the future include:

Summary of Recommendations:

- Consider moving the event planning and management to University Advancement. This would allow the committee to concentrate on awards selection and award coordination.
- Continue with the on-Line application
- Continue to provide one complementary faculty/staff mentor guest for students and other guests at a nominal cost.
- Continue to work during Fall term to recruit student committee members and utilize an orientation and confidentiality agreement with student committee members.
- Continue to have a reception and dessert event.
- Continue to involve the Faculty Senate President as a narrator for the event and ASOSU and MUPC Presidents as the MCs.
- Meet with the Faculty Senate President, Financial Aid, University Advancement and Co-Chairs of Committee to determine who will be managing the event. The recommendation from the Co-Chairs is to use the expertise and financial backing of University Advancement to carry out the event, while allowing the ex-officio to market, make contacts and support application and data pull process to further enhance the event.

[2008-09 Event Budget](#)