

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

AEC MAY MINUTES

DATE: May 13, 2025

LOCATION: Zoom

Present: Angela Williams, Sean Bonness, Janet Ramirez-Hahn, David Betancourt, Cindy Hall, Marlena Shore, Kristine P. Aslanyan

Absent: Debra Johnson, Mark Abbruzzese, Stephanie Minami

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes and Approval
 - a. David inquired whether the April Minutes included the musical performances.
 - a. It will be added to the April Minutes: Mariachi Falcons and Jazz Duo.
 - b. David moved to approve the April 2025 Minutes. Janet R-H seconded the motion.

2. Review of the Academic Excellence Awards event.
 - a. David: Thanked the committee for their work and noted that the event was overall successful. Special thanks were extended to **Eric** for serving as an effective liaison and for his significant contributions.
 - b. Angela: Highlighted that the slide show was very well received by families
 - c. Janet: Commented that the event went smoothly, but emphasized the need to ensure accuracy with individuals' pronouns in future events.

3. Suggestions for next year's event
 - a. Eric: Noted that some narratives were significantly longer than others, requiring extra time to read.
 - b. Kristine shared Debra's feedback that was sent through email.
 - a. The ceremony went well overall; she thanked the committee.
 - b. The decision to merge AEA ceremony and the Foundation Scholarship event should be subject to AEC Committee vote.
 - c. The ceremony started 10 minutes late.
 - d. IT to provide the data earlier in January.
 - e. All committee members should be present at the ceremony; if unable, a substitute instructor should be arranged.
 - c. Cindy Hall: Reported that the post-ceremony reception was held outside, where poor lighting created challenges. Recommended improved lighting for next year.
 - d. Kristine: Suggested updating the nomination form and narrative templates to streamline the approval process and allow easier extraction of content.

- e. Kristine: Suggested to confirm the non-attendance of nominees next year. There were 2 nominees saying they submitted an RSVP, but it was not received.
 - f. David: Proposed revisiting the original planning timeline for the event. Recommended initiating planning steps in January, including guidelines for speakers and narratives. Also emphasized the importance of having all speakers seated and ready to begin promptly
 - g. David and Eric talked AEC and Foundation scholarship events merging, pros and cons. Kristine shared Debra's email, suggesting that this decision should go through voting. Based on the results, the Senate President and the Foundation Director should be informed. Kristine/Sean will submit an email vote.
 - h. Sean: Recommended marking the stage with tape (Xs) to guide speakers' movement and placement.
 - i. David: suggested that the funding for the event should be discussed quickly, as the assumption is that it will not be separate, making the funding easy. Eric agreed, suggesting that the Foundation should be informed early about the funding request. Aslanyan asked about the amount spent by the foundation this year, and Eric mentioned that it was a few hundred dollars, with the most expensive item being the plaques.
 - j. Sean/Kristine: Submit Google/Teams vote.
 - k. Sean/Kristine: Submit funding request to the Foundation as soon as possible
 - l. Sean: Committee to consider Michael Pierini (Culinary Arts Faculty) as a potential keynote speaker for next year's event. Pierini was recognized as the 2024-25 Most Outstanding Faculty.
4. Website update
- a. Kristine; Will work on updating the committee's website over the summer and present changes at the August meeting
5. Updates from the floor