

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

AEC FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

DATE: 02/17/2026

LOCATION: Zoom

PRESENT: Sean Bonness, Kristine P. Aslanyan, Angela Williams, Debra Johnson, Cindy Hall, David Betancourt, Janet Ramirez-Han, Maria Gurrola, Mark Abbruzzese, Trisha Kozlowski.

ABSENT: Stephanie Minami, Eric Calderon.

1. Minutes and Approval
 - a. David moved to approve the Minutes, and Janet seconded it. The committee unanimously voted to approve.
2. Received 50 nominations (increase from 42 last year).
 - a. 3 late nominations were submitted after the meeting, making it 53 in total.
Breakdown by department: Business Education (7), Fine Arts (6), Health Occupations (9), Humanities (7), Kinesiology (3), Liberal Arts (2), SCM (7), Technology (9).
3. Electronic Signature Process:
 - a. Significant improvement over last year, only 3 paper submissions. Division secretaries were instrumental in the success.
4. Event Attendees Confirmed: Administrators: Dr. Fierro, Dr. Brammer, Terrence Mullins. Board Members: Dr. Dawn Green, Mariana Rios. Reader: Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez (backup: Dr. Etelvina Jurado). Deans: Dr. Michael Page, Nick Real.
5. Academic Excellence Awards calendar
 - a. Tuesday, February 17, 11 am, Zoom
 - a. Reps and AEC Chairs to check the eligibility for accuracy
 - b. Send out invitations to the candidates and bring props for the photoshoot.
 - c. Invite nominating faculty
 - b. **Tuesday, March 10, 11 am photo reception**
 - a. **Reserve the location; David**
 - b. **Ask Sarah for April 16 as well; Kristine**
 - c. **Food/snacks for March 10, Debra**
 - d. **David will confirm the location for March 10, 11-1 pm.**
 1. **Sean 11-12, Kristine 12-1, Angela 12-1, Debra, 11-12, Mark 11-12, is Eric available for the podium and backdrop**
 2. **Prep Photography questionnaire; Kristine**
 3. **Sean informed that Dr. Mixson can provide additional funding, up to \$1000 if needed.**
 - e. **No need to submit an event announcement to public relations; this is a closed event.**



- f. **Work with PAL for media request, Gary Prichard; Sean**
 - g. **Work w/foundation for food (Amber) and flowers (work with Eric)**
 - h. **It is estimated that the attendees can be up to 250**
 - c. Tuesday, March 31, 11 am, in-person (instead of March 17, Spring Break)
 - a. Coordinate with PAC for reserving meeting space
 - b. Start working on the program
 - d. **Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony**
 - e. Tuesday, April 21, 11 am, Zoom
6. Scholarship Awards
Update with Eric and ask for a timeline.
7. Updates from the floor
- a. David reminded that the photoshoot reservation and procurement of facilities should be done in September