

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

AEC JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

DATE: 01/20/2026

LOCATION: Zoom

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

ABSENT: Trisha Kozlowski, Stephanie Minami, Eric Calderon.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes and Approval
 1. Debra moved to approve the minutes, and Janet seconded it.
2. Academic Excellence Awards calendar
 - a. Kristine reviewed and confirmed the following.
 - b. Thursday, February 5, NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE!**
 - i. Soft deadline for Reps and AEC is February 12**
 - c. Tuesday, February 17, 11 am, Zoom
 - i. Reps and AEC Chairs to check the eligibility for accuracy
 - ii. Send out invitations to the candidates.
 - d. Tuesday, March 10, 11 am photo reception**
 - e. **Tuesday, March 31, 11 am**, in-person (instead of March 17, Spring Break)
 - f. Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony**
 - g. Tuesday, April 21, 11 am, Zoom
3.
 1. Updates
 - a. Candidate list is uploaded to Teams for representatives, deans, and department chairs
 - b. Campus-wide emails have been sent to full-time and part-time faculty
 - c. Nomination forms and student data available on Teams (organized by division)
 - d. Readers confirmed: Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez and Dr. Etelvina Jurado (Terrance Mullins unavailable)
 - e. Speaker confirmed: Michael Pierini
 - f. Kristine will submit a Media Request for photography
 - g. Ceremony attendance: Traditionally open to all faculty; nominating faculty encouraged to attend to escort students
 - h. Nomination limit: Maximum 2 students per department, must be in different programs/majors/certificates

4. Scholarship Awards
 - a. Sean will coordinate with the Foundation and update the committee

5. Updates from the floor
 - a. February 17: Zoom meeting to verify nomination accuracy
 - b. March 17: No meeting (spring break)
 - c. March 31: In-person meeting at Performing Arts Center