

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

AEC OCTOBER 2025 MINUTES

DATE: 10/21/2025

LOCATION: Zoom

CO-CHAIRS: Dr. Sean Bonness and Kristine P. Aslanyan

Present: Sean Bonnes, Kristine P. Aslanyan, Debra Johnson, Cindy Hall, Eric Calderon, David Betancourt, Angela Williams, Maria Gurrola, Mark Abbruzzese, Trisha Kozlowski, Janet Ramirez-Han, Stephanie Minami,

Absent: Araf Rahman

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes and Approval
 - a. August Minutes
 - a. Janet moved to approve, and David seconded the motion
 - b. The committee unanimously voted and passed the motion.
 - b. September Minutes
 - a. David moved to approve, and Debra seconded the motion
 - b. The Committee voted and passed the motion, except for Janet abstaining.
2. AEC Membership
 - a. AEC welcomed 2 new committee members: Eric Calderon (Foundation) and Maria Gurrola (Health Occupations, replacing Marlena Shore)
3. Academic Excellence Awards Calendar
 - a. Tuesday, August 19, 11 am Zoom
 - b. Tuesday, September 16, 11 am, Zoom
 - a. Invitations to AEA: College Board Members, Cerritos Foundation, Administrators,
 - c. Tuesday, October 21, 11 am, Zoom
 - d. Tuesday, November 18, 11 am, Zoom
 - e. December:
 - a. Send an advanced notice to A&R of the data request for January 2026.
 - b. Division Reps to announce the upcoming nomination period at Division Meetings.
 - c. Share the nominations forms with Division Reps, early December

- f. Tuesday, January 20, 11 am, Zoom
 - a. First week of January:
 - 1. Submit a request to A&R/IT for the candidate list.
 - 2. Upload candidate list to TEAMS for Reps and Deans.
 - 3. Make nomination forms available on TEAMS. Jan 12
 - 4. AEC sends campus-wide email to faculty about nominations.
 - a. Deans, dept chairs, and full-time faculty.
 - i. P/T faculty should be informed via reps/dept chairs to avoid multiple nominations.
 - ii. Ask faculty to coordinate the nominations with the Dept chair and Reps.
 - 5. Reps remind faculty during Division Meetings.
 - 6. Explore logistics for signatures.
 - g. Thursday, February 5, NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE!**
 - h. Tuesday, February 17, 11 am, Zoom
 - a. Reps and AEC Chairs to check the eligibility for accuracy
 - b. Send out invitations to the candidates.
 - i. Tuesday, March 10, 11 am photo reception (location?)**
 - j. Tuesday, March 31, 11 am, in-person (instead of March 17, Spring Break)
 - k. Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony**
 - l. Tuesday, April 21, 11 am, Zoom
4. David proposed revising the nomination form to reorganize signatures and clarify the process, with Kristine agreeing to update the form and share it with representatives by December.
5. Keynote Speaker: Chef Michael Pierini
The committee selects Michael Pierini from Culinary Arts as the keynote speaker after no other suggestions emerge from the divisions.
6. Nominations Reader(s):
- a. Primary: Terrance Mullins, Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez,
 - b. Other suggestions: Victor Obasohan, Walter Fernandez, Dara Worrel, Dr. Michelle Lewellen, Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez, Dr. Etelvina Jurado; Foundation Director,
 - 1. Mark will inquire with Victor, Walter, Michelle, and Terrence about their availability.
 - 2. Sean will inquire with Dara
 - 3. Eric will inquire with Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Jurado
 - c. Formal invitations will be sent in January

7. Scholarship Awards

- a. 19 AEA Scholarships. 4 do not have enough funds
- b. Delver's Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship (Earth Science)
Jack Hoekzema Medical Assisting Scholarship (Medical Assistant)
Paige Scholar Scholarship (STEM)
Roger Ernest Creative Writing Scholarship (English, Creative Writing)

8. Updates from the floor