

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

**AEC SEPTEMBER 2025 Minutes**

DATE: 09/16/2025

LOCATION: Zoom

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

Present: Sean Bonness, Kristine P. Aslanyan, Debra Johnson, Marlena Shore, Angela Williams, David Betancourt, Trisha Kozlowski, Araf Rahman

Absent: Mark Abbruzzese, Cindy Hall, Janet Ramirez-Han, Stephanie Minami

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes and Approval
  - a. August minutes could not be approved since the committee did not reach a quorum.
  - b. August and September minutes will be presented for approval during the October committee meeting.
  
2. AEC Members
  - a. Kristine informed the committee about the process of requesting a member to be added from the Foundation. The Faculty Senate has approved this request. A request has been submitted to the Coordinating Committee. Kristine will follow up on this.
  
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, and Instructional Deans.
      1. Invitations will be emailed to the Instructional Deans.
  - c. Tuesday, October 21, 11 am, Zoom
  - d. Tuesday, November 18, 11 am, Zoom
    - a. Division Reps to announce the upcoming nomination period at Division Meetings.
  - e. December:
    - a. Remind A&R of the data request for January 2026.
    - b. Division Reps to remind of the upcoming nomination period at Division Meetings.
  - f. Tuesday, January 20, 11 am, Zoom
    - a. First week of January:
      1. Submit a request to A&R/IT for the candidate list on Monday, Jan 5, 2026

2. Upload candidate list to TEAMS for Reps and Deans by Jan 7, 2026
    3. Nomination forms will be available on TEAMS, Jan 12, 2026
    4. AEC sends campus-wide email about nominations. Jan 14, 2026
    5. Reps remind faculty during Division Meetings.
  - 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).
    - a. Check and RSVP with Sarah Pirtle
    - b. This date was originally on March 3, 2026. Kristine suggested delaying by 1 week to allow adequate time to contact the students and send invitations.
  - j. Tuesday, March 31, 11 am, in-person (instead of March 17, Spring Break)
  - k. Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony
    - a. Committee will continue discussion on readers, perhaps request 2 readers from the Foundation.
  - l. Tuesday, April 21, 11 am, Zoom
4. Adding SEM areas to the awards eligibility list
- a. Sean inquired about adding SEM Areas for nominations to the awards ceremony. This will include awards such as Pre-Pharmacy and Pre-Medical, among others. David Betancourt commented that if the committee decides to include SEM division areas for nominations, then other divisions need to be included too, which will increase the nominations substantially. Sean will convey this to the SEM Department Dean.
5. Keynote Speaker
- a. Sean suggested considering Chef Michael Pierini for the speaker, who received the Most Outstanding Faculty award in 2024.
  - b. Committee members agreed to gather input from their divisions on ideas for the ceremony's keynote speaker.
6. Updates from the floor