

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-21

Committee Name:

University Senate Awards Committee

Number of meetings held this year:

One Zoom meeting was held

Committee Chair:

Stephen A. Royek

Committee Members:

Amanda Adams, Lori Block, Cory Dixon, Melissa Klapper, John Quinesso, and Natalie Schell-Busey

Purpose of/Charge to Committee:

The task of the Faculty Senate Awards Committee is to solicit nominations for, coordinate the selection of, and facilitate the presentation of three Graduating Senior Awards: The Dr. Robert D. Bole Humanitarian Award, the Dr. James M. Lynch, Jr., Courage in Adversity Award, and the Dr. Thomas E. Robinson Leadership Award. The Committee also facilitates the presentation of the Dr. Lawson J. Brown Senior Scholarship Award, which is an academic performance honor.

Summary of Activities this Year:

With the COVID-19 pandemic well underway at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, our committee knew the entire Graduating Senior Awards process would be done remotely. The first change came when we held our first (and only) meeting of the term on Zoom. All seven of us attended and we said goodbye to retiring member Kelly Young and welcomed new colleague Cory Dixon.

As our first piece of business, as it is each year, we discussed and set our the date our selections are due to the Medallion Coordinator. For Spring 2021, that date was Monday, March 1. We then, collectively, decided that two weeks, and the three

weekends surrounding them, would be enough time for us to review however many nominations we receive. With that, our nomination deadline of Friday, February 19 was set.

With our deadline in hand, the Google submission forms were updated with 2020-2021 information and deadlines, and the documents were uploaded to Google Folders dedicated to each of the three awards. In addition, submission forms were created and placed at the end of the respective Google Doc links.

We then moved on to the main discussion we have at the beginning of every Awards Committee year: How do we reach as many faculty, staff, and students as we can to garner the maximum number of applications.

Our main marketing campaigns on campus are:

Messages in the *Rowan Daily Mail* every six days between the date we open the nomination page and as close as we can get to the date our nominations are due. [5`\]b`hc`h`\\jg`mYUfNg`announcement can be found here.](#)

Three email messages delivered throughout the year to the deans of all colleges and the heads and chairs of all academic departments. In these messages, we encourage the deans, heads, and chairs to share this information with their faculty and staff as part of their periodic internal communications.

One effort to spread the word was launched this past academic year. As chair of the committee, I asked Bill Freind if I could address a University Senate meeting with our request for nominations, and in November 2020 I addressed the faculty legislative body. Coincidentally, I was able point Senators and those attending the Zoom meeting that day, to a *Rowan Daily Mail* announcement that appeared [jb`h`\\Uh`a cfb u`*`fl](#)

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Coordinator, Professor Lauren Banko.

This is the point of the process where we then write an updated announcement for the *Rowan Daily Mail* announcing the winners and recognizing the members of our committee. [<YfYġg'U``\]b_`hc'h\Uh'fY`YUgY"](#)

One final adjustment was made in the process this year in what we hope was a farewell nod to COVID: Instead of picking up the Medallions and delivering them to the dean and/or department chair/head of the winning student, we coordinated for each of those entities to retrieve their own Medallions from Prof. Banko.

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