

UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: _____ Awards _____ 2015-2016

Number of Meetings Held this Year: _____ We met in cyberspace, via email _____

Committee Chair: ___Kathryn Quigley_____

Committee Members: (list here)

Ryan Barrett		
Heather Carter		
Christine Davidian		
Jeanine Dowd		
April Ellerbe		
Sangita Uday Phadtare		
Bradford Fischer		

Purpose of/Charge to Committee:

AWARDS: selects the students whose names are submitted as nominees by their sponsors to receive honors for outstanding achievement in various areas, most of which are related to the curriculum. Total 9 members.

What is NOT stated in the Committee Charge is actually the biggest function of the committee: selecting and awarding 80 Medallion Awards.

Summary of Activities this Year:

The committee selected and awarded 80 Medallions to students and alum in the areas of academics, leadership and courage in adversity. For ten previous years, the committee was capably chaired by Prof. Claudia Cuddy. Upon her retirement, a void was left.

I (Kathryn Quigley) stepped in as chair, not quite realizing what a huge amount of work it is to be in charge of the Medallions.

UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL COMMITTEE

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

2015-16

SUGGESTIONS:

I strongly - with every fiber of my being - suggest that the Medallion Awards be REMOVED from under the Faculty Senate Committees and instead, be given to a paid support staff person. There are now 80 Medallion Awards. There are multiple Medallions in multiple academic departments, not to mention awards for leadership, courage, having a high GPA and being a good humanitarian.

No where in the Awards Committee's charge by the Faculty Senate does it say "in charge of the Medallion Awards." But it has been that way for at least ten years or maybe more.

That must change. The chairman of the Awards Committee is a full-time professor with a full course load. I was scrambling to handle the Medallions in addition to teaching three courses and advising The Whit student newspaper. There is no way to distribute duties to other committee members because there is one main database and certain aspects – like certificates, engraving etc – must remain uniform.

I was lucky enough to have the assistance of a fabulous department secretary, Sue McMahon Flynn from the Journalism Department. She must have put in at least 80 hours assisting me with the Medallion Awards and that was in addition to her other duties as department secretary. I did my best but managed to annoy faculty members who thought I should be doing things better/quicker/their way. Several Medallion winners had to be changed at the last minute including one change that was made three days before Commencement.

It is a complicated, meticulous and annoying job. Being in charge of the Medallion Awards means coordinating with faculty, staff, University Publications, donors, University Relations and Development.

Does that sound like it should be done by a faculty member with a full course load? No. It is practically a full-time job in the spring semester.

On the other hand, my committee members were very helpful in selecting the five Medallion Awards that are solely under the discretion of the Awards Committee. They gave thoughtful consideration to the nominees and gave timely feedback. We picked some great Award winners.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hire retired Prof. Claudia Cuddy to do the Medallion Awards as a freelancer Pay her \$2,000. She LOVED doing it. It made her happy. She was GOOD at doing it. I, on the other hand, sprouted extra gray hair. It got so bad that my secretary Sue and I started referring to it as “that M word.” We did not say it in a nice tone.
2. Turn the duties over to a professional or support staff person, perhaps in Student Life. This task is perfect for someone who is meticulous, detail oriented and good at dealing with the various departments on campus.
3. Keep it under the Faculty Senate but give release time.

And now that my time as head of the Medallion Awards is over, excuse me while I go scream in relief.

--Kathryn Quigley, Associate Professor of Journalism. quigleyk@rowan.edu