

Committee on Faculty Awards, Professorships, and Prizes (CFAPP)

Yearly Report – Summer 2021

To: Dean Maria Donoghue Velleca

From: CFAPP 2020-21

Brian Blouet (History, Area II)

Melanie Dawson, co-chair (English, Area I)

Pam Hunt (Psychology, Area II) – filled in for Tomoka Hamada

Charles Palermo, co-chair (Art and Art History, Area 1)

Jonathan Scheerer (Chemistry, Area III)

Andreas Stathopoulos (Computer Science, Area III)

The committee would like to express its thanks to Kathy Morgan and Heather Power for providing us with all information needed to accomplish the work of the committee in a timely and efficient manner.

Procedures and this year's awards --

Consistent with previous practices, the entire CFAPP met for a discussion of the Eminent Professorship nominees. Subcommittees were created for the remaining awards, with each subcommittee chaired by a CFAPP member, who also recruited two additional faculty members who were prior recipients of this award or an adjacent award. Subcommittees were composed so as to avoid conflicts of interest (i.e. of being in the same department with a nominee) and so as to achieve representation appropriate to the award across areas I, II, and III.

FALL Awards committees

McLeod Tyler -- Andreas Stathopoulos, Elizabeth Harbron, Diane Shakes

Graves -- Pam Hunt, Larry Leemis, Alexander Prokhorov

Hamilton -- Jonathan Scheerer, Jennifer Mellor, Anne Rasmussen

Verkuil -- Brian Blouet, Caroline Hanley, Chris Howard

TDAP-- Charles Palermo, David Feldman, Hannes Schniepp

VMEC -- full CFAPP committee, plus external review within sciences

Judaic Studies --full CFAPP committee

Cummings -- full CFAPP committee

Dittman -- Full CFAPP committee

SPRING Awards committees

Chancellor -- Andreas Stathopoulos, Sarah Stafford, Jack Martin (and as non-voting note-taker, Pam Hunt)

Faculty Governance -- Jonathan Scheerer, Key Jenkins, Nicole Santiago

ASFATE Teaching Excellence -- Melanie Dawson, Jonathan Glasser, Heather Macdonald (and as a non-voting note-taker, Charles Palermo).

Murphy -- Charles Palermo, Lily Panoussi, Lena Prokhorova

Action items

Early Organization

As suggested by Smirni/Jenkins in their 2019 CFAPP report, we believe that it's best to elect or designate co-chairs for the coming academic year by Spring and Summer. A significant share of the committee's work must be assigned and underway by the middle of the fall semester, so having leadership in place makes for a smoother entrée into the committee's fall workload. We wonder whether it might be possible for one or both of these important liaisons to be present at an early meeting of the whole CFAPP committee.

The Nature of Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Ranked/ Not ranked reports – One issue that came up consistently this year was the time commitment involved in preparing unranked lists of candidates. These reports were required to be much more detailed regarding our deliberations, and at the same time non-directive. Subcommittees struggled with the charge not to rank or evaluate candidates, when the materials in front of them frequently prompted evaluative responses. To take up a dossier that advocates on behalf of a candidate, and is therefore written in the language of evaluation, and to translate it into descriptive language that is neutral or reserved has been challenging.

CFAPP's Role in Relation to Faculty Governance

Following the 2019 committee report's recommendations: we recommend an annual meeting with the dean – involving past co-chairs and future co-chairs, if that is feasible – to discuss the committee's processes and goals. This committee has had a significant role within the university's approach to faculty awards, and was created in order to provide transparency about the awards process. In the eyes of many faculty who participate on the subcommittees, its continued transparency is tied, directly, to the committee's efficacy. This year, for example, questions arose about the recruiting and nomination processes, particularly when the regular process was amended and a new nominee was brought to a subcommittee after the normal process had concluded. The objective character of the process is key to supporting the function of awards, prizes and professorships. Irregularities in process have the potential to undermine this important function.