

UCF Graduate Council

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PROGRAM REVIEW AND AWARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of March 05, 2010 meeting

Members Present

Karen Aroian, Patricia Bishop, Michael Caputo, Debopam Chakrabarti, Paul Dombrowski, Ahmad Elshennawy, H.G. Parsa

Recorder

Tara Johnson

Welcome and call to order: Dr. Paul Dombrowski called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

The purpose of the meeting was to select winners of the various faculty and student awards for the year. First, the committee discussed changes that would make the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award process better in the future. They were:

- Add a one-page summary page to the file
- Limit the entire file to 25 pages, with an abbreviated CV
- Include a peer evaluation of teaching
- Include only one syllabi from one graduate course
- Summarize teaching evaluations and provide department, college, and university averages with the individual statistics for the nominee

The committee also recommended that the student files for their awards be limited to 25 pages total in the future.

The committee reviewed the nominations for the student and faculty awards. The committee was given the nominees' entries prior to their meeting along with a criteria sheet to rate the nominees. Ratings were then received from the committee members prior to the meeting and the results displayed to facilitate discussion.

Faculty Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award – After much discussion between the top contenders, Dr. Catbas was selected to receive the award. This was particularly difficult this year since the two top contenders were very outstanding. The committee expressed some reservations about being able to make a selection when the faculty were from such different disciplines with different cultures. After some discussion, it was generally agreed that this is the nature of these types of awards and it is helpful that each college is represented on the committee.

Award for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant- There was discussion between the top two candidates. The committee recommended **Uma Seelam** as the winner for this award.

Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching – Robert Cascio was voted on unanimously as winner for this award.

Award for Outstanding Master's Thesis – Ali Darwiche was voted on unanimously as winner for this award.

Award for Outstanding Dissertation – Ciceron Yanez was voted on unanimously as winner for this award.

Award for Innovative Thesis or Dissertation – Gary Stein was voted on as winner for this award.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

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