

Scholarship and Awards Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Members present: Lexey Bartlett (chair), Kevin Brown, Kathy Nixon, Shannin Schroeder, Diane Steinberg, and Natasha McPartlin

1. Topics for Discussion

- Agenda Item: Given the change of scholarship due dates in the spring to after the Convention, we need to develop a method for approving awards when we cannot review the proposed winners in our committee meeting at the Spring Board meeting. Discussion: the committee agreed that email communication among the faculty members of the committee works, following the method of sharing the award assignments with scores but no names. The specific process need not be specified in the motion, so a simple motion was produced to clarify the final process. Resulting motion (passed unanimously in the Board meeting): The Scholarships and Awards Committee moves that the process for approving the distribution of scholarship awards be a majority vote of the faculty members of the Scholarships and Awards Committee.
- Agenda Item: We also need to review the scholarship essay competition and posting at Convention because of the change in due dates—only those essays submitted in the fall can be judged and posted at Convention, a much smaller pool of competitors than in the past. Discussion: It was decided to keep the competition because for students who might not be awarded a scholarship, an essay prize can be a boost, but it was decided to rename it and make sure all students who submitted scholarship applications could participate. Winners' essays will appear as blog entries. Resulting motion (passed unanimously in the Board meeting): The Scholarships and Awards Committee moves that the Convention Essay Award be renamed the Scholarship Essay Award, to be selected from both the fall and spring scholarship submissions and awarded at the end of the spring award cycle.
- Agenda item: Revisit the scholarship application essay issue—do we like the use of a more guided prompt? Does it need to be tied to the Convention theme? Discussion: Some disagreement. Schroeder in favor of prompts not necessarily tied to the Convention theme, while Bartlett is in favor of theme-related prompts, perhaps depending on the Convention theme. The other issue is whether to have more than one prompt. Bartlett noted that too many prompts might create problems for judges trying to compare essays on different topics. This will likely be a topic of continuing discussion and may depend on the Convention theme.
- Agenda item: Check in on the number of applications and trends in numbers of applications. Discussion: Numbers generally holding steady.
- Agenda item: Judges for Spring Round? Discussion: Volunteers to be gathered at luncheon and from previous lists.

2. New Business (suggestions from the committee?)

- Schroeder remarks that Lambda Iota Tau—LIT—now being absorbed, we are charged to consider how to honor LIT—perhaps by a scholarship especially for literature. Proposes a research grant open to both graduate and undergraduate students. Maybe 2 research

grants a year? Add one to each round. \$1000 each, plus a \$500 runner-up (total \$3000). Application should be a “Streamlined process”: Perhaps one letter from supervising professor, project description and where and how research will be done. Resulting motion (passed unanimously by the Board): The Scholarships and Awards Committee moves that we create the Lambda Iota Tau Research Grant in the amount of \$1000, with a \$500 runner-up award, to support research in archives or other collections, open to undergraduate and graduate students, to be awarded in both the fall and spring award rounds.

- Other suggestions: Add an optional space in the applications for student to tell us anything else they would like us know about them that might not appear in other materials, and add a note in the letter of recommendation email to ask recommenders to tell us anything we might need to know about a student that might not come through in the other materials.

FYI: Spring Scholarship Dates

Application Link Opens February 6, 2017

Applications Due April 10, 2017

Recommendation Letters due April 17, 2017

Judge Scores Requested by May 3, 2017 (Committee review process? See first topic above.)

Study Abroad and Summer Program Scholarships announced May 10, 2017

Other Scholarships announced May 17, 2017

