

## Motion to Move Faculty Awards to April Faculty Meeting

On September 20th, David Rettinger submitted the attached motion to present faculty awards at the end of the year faculty meeting instead of at commencement. The request was forwarded to the University Sabbaticals, Fellowships & Faculty Awards Committee, with the rationale that since this committee assists in the determination of these awards that they might have some thoughts on when they should be presented. The committee felt that the motion was outside of their purview:

Response from the SFFA committee:

*"The SFFA committee duties are to recommend to the Provost - sabbaticals and Jepson Fellowships for subsequent funding, as well as faculty members who should receive faculty awards. Moving the presentation of faculty awards from commencement to the final faculty meeting of the year is not under the jurisdiction and purview of the committee. As such the committee is not in a position to make the changes concerning faculty awards, or to put forward an official position on this motion."*

At the meeting with the BOV Executive Committee on Oct. 16th, this motion was mentioned and members of the Board said that they were interested in faculty thoughts about this matter as they are in the process of establishing a BOV faculty award for service. They presumed that the award would be given at commencement as the Board is present at commencement. This item is included on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> UFC meeting agenda for discussion of how to best proceed with consideration of the motion.

## Motion

It is moved that the UFC resolve that faculty awards not decided by students (emeritus status, Outstanding Young Faculty and Grellet Simpson) be presented at the final full faculty meeting of the year and not at commencement.

## Rationale

There are three reasons for moving the presentation of faculty awards from commencement to the final faculty meeting of the year.

1. Commencement is a celebration of the graduating class, and activities at commencement should focus on the members of that class. Faculty awards, while they may be of interest to some students, do not fundamentally celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class. By moving faculty awards to a different time, the commencement program becomes more focused on the graduating students. We recommend that the Pinschmidt award, which is given by students, continue to be awarded during the graduation ceremony.
2. With the reading of all undergraduate and graduate degree recipients' names, commencement is already a long ceremony. Reducing the duration, even by the small amount of time required for the presentation of faculty awards, is a benefit. As weather becomes less predictable and more extreme as the result of climate change, a shorter outdoor commencement is desirable.
3. This change would increase the relevance and engagement at the final faculty meeting. Given the recent challenges in obtaining a quorum at faculty meetings, presenting awards is a way to positively encourage attendance. These meetings have not been particularly long in recent years, thus adding to the agenda will not create an undue time burden on faculty.
4. The Waple professional achievement award is already presented at the final meeting. By moving the other faculty awards to this meeting, it confers equal standing on all faculty awards.