The Hancher-Finkbine Medallion Faculty Award Criteria

The following criteria specifically refers to faculty members nominated for the Hancher-Finkbine Medallion. This criteria also applies to the students and alumni medallion awards. The criteria for nomination and selection are inscribed on the Medallion itself – Learning-Leadership-Loyalty. The suggestions below are intended to make more concrete some of the ways in which these general criteria might exhibit themselves in a faculty member.

A faculty member who exemplifies the characteristics of Learning should:

...be possessed of a keen mind which they consciously cultivate and hone through reading, listening, and reflection;

...be intellectually alert and curious, not only in their own field of specialization, but also in the other areas important to an educated person;

...give evidence of independence in study and thought. In class and conversation the faculty member should demonstrate that they accept a conclusion or a point of view only when persuaded that its validity is buttressed by adequate evidence;

...demonstrate in written work and spoken dialog that they are imbued with the spirit of scholarship and their field of academic interest;

...provide outward evidence of intellectual capacity by having earned marks in academic work which show beyond question that teachers have respect for their ability.

A faculty member who exemplifies the characteristics of Leadership should:

...give evidence of willingness to assume responsibility in classes by participating in class discussion, raising relevant questions, and generally demonstrating active involvement in the work of the course;

...assume, if called on, positions of responsibility in organizations and groups of which they are a member and perform their duties with diligence;

...make their influence felt on the side of reason and good will, on public issues or issues affecting the life of the University;

...carry their academic work, from time to time, beyond the minimum level established by instructors--by reading additional works, performing additional experiments--that is, by "walking the extra mile";

...volunteer, on occasion, to take on additional tasks, not from motives of self-aggrandizement but because they feel it will advance the objectives or social welfare of the group.
The Committee believes that leadership can be both overt and subtle and that it should not be measured solely in terms of the amount of public exposure gained through holding office on university committees, in student organizations, or social groups.

A faculty member who exemplifies the characteristics of Loyalty should:

...give evidence in everyday behavior that they adhere to the standards expected of the liberally educated individual;

...measure utterances and actions, not solely from the standpoint of personal conviction and self-interest, but in the context of the best interests of the university as a whole;

...stand firm for personal convictions, if they will pass the tests of reason and good will, even though it may be at the cost of losing group approval;

...exhibit reasoned devotion to the basic values and ideals of American constitutional government as they understand them;

...operate within the framework of a "loyal opposition" on those issues where personal convictions bring them into conflict with prevailing opinion.

In awarding the Hancher-Medallion, the Committee is earnestly searching for faculty members who already exhibit or give promise of developing these characteristics. The Committee feels strongly that the award should not be based on popularity, nor should it be a reward for unthinking conformity. On the contrary, the creative individual, the "off-beat" personality, and the maverick, provided the student measures up to the criteria suggested, should not be discriminated against in making nominations. The search is for faculty members of established ability and promising potential.

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