

**NACADA Awards Committee  
2015 Annual Conference Meeting  
Sunday, October 4, 2015 10:15-11:15 a.m.  
Caesars Palace Senate Boardroom  
Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Becky Zirger (EO), Karen Lewis (chair), Cynthia Pascal (incoming chair), Kerry Kincanon (board), Justin Gerstenberger, Kat McGrath, Jennifer McCaul, Jeremy Thomas, Kathy Earwood, Gayle Juneau-Butler, Alexander Kunkle, Luke Garton

Meeting called to order: 10:20 a.m.

Karen began the meeting by discussing the committee's Division Unit Report for the 2014-2015 awards cycle:

- 1) A new award, Excellence in Scholarly Inquiry, was approved.
- 2) Unfortunately, despite extra advertising, the total number of applications for awards decreased by one from the previous year.

Karen then discussed the 2015 award statistics. This year, approximately 76% of those applied were awarded, compared to 79% last year. Several members observed that the quality of the applications seemed lower this year. While many applications reflected excellent advising work, they lacked the something extra that would make the applicant deserving of an award.

Next, Karen described the committee's goal to increase applications for NACADA awards in the upcoming cycle. The following suggestions were made:

- Find a way to connect with graduate programs in higher education and advertise through them.
- Consider advertising our awards through NASPA.
- Review the tips for a successful nomination packet that are currently online and make sure they are still applicable and useful.
- Write an article about the awards for both Academic Advising Today and the NACADA blog.
- Make the distinction between awards and scholarships clearer on the NACADA website.
- Make the application deadlines highly visible on the NACADA website.
- Create a sample timeline for the steps in application completion. If possible, add them to the NACADA website in a way that would allow the dates to be downloaded into Outlook Calendar.
- Send a targeted email to advising administrators urging them to make award nominations an ongoing practice on their campus. The email should remind administrators that each campus may only nominate one individual per category.
- Create a subcommittee to review suggestions and recommend changes to the Awards Committee.

Finally, Karen mentioned the lack of applications to the Region Graduate Scholarship. The following suggestions were made:

- Change the rules regarding who qualifies for the scholarship so that full time employees enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits can apply. Perhaps even offer two tracks- one for full time graduate students and one for part time graduate students.
- Award fewer scholarships overall, and increase the amount of each scholarship to include a travel stipend in addition to a conference fee waiver.
- Create a link on each Region website that leads directly to the application for the association level scholarship.
- People may be confused by the terminology, so consider changing the name from "Region Graduate Scholarship" to "Regional Conference Fee Waiver."
- Create a subcommittee to review suggestions and recommend changes to the Awards Committee.

Meeting adjourned 11:10 a.m.