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Process and Criteria for Rescinding Award for Excellence in Research

Submitted by Dallas Rhodes

6/24/2009

Question:

A member of the faculty was selected by the Faculty Research Committee to receive one of the Awards for Excellence in Research for 2009-2010. The individual's name was printed in the Spring Commencement Program along with the other recipients and was announced at the ceremony. However, between the time the Research Committee made its decision and the Commencement exercises, the award was rescinded.

Although a formal request for an explanation has been made and repeated no information about this event has been provided by the Faculty Research Committee.

This RFI seeks answers to the following questions:

- 1) What was the origin of the proposal to rescind the award?
- 2) What steps led to the decision to rescind the award? 3) Who participated in the decision to rescind the award?
- 3) What requirement for the award was violated that caused it to be rescinded?
- 4) Why has the Research Committee Chair failed to respond to previous requests for an explanation of what has occurred?

Rationale:

The request concerns an award made by the Senate's Faculty Research Committee.

Response:

posted 6/26/2009

- (1) What was the origin of the proposal to rescind the award?

The origin was a call from the Provost, Linda Bleicken, to the Chair of the Faculty Research Committee, Norman Schmidt.

- (2) What steps led to the decision to rescind the award? The Provost explained to the chair that the award is to honor a current (2009-2010) faculty recipient of Georgia Southern. Jonathan Geisler, the awardee, was no longer a faculty member at Georgia Southern and thus ineligible to be the awardee.
- (3) Who participated in the decision to rescind the award? The Faculty Research Committee by way of a vote during its meeting in short term Summer 2009 term.
- (4) What requirement for the award was violated that caused it to be rescinded? According to the Provost, Jonathan was ineligible due to his not being on Georgia Southern Faculty for 2009-2010.
- (5) Why has the Research committee Chair failed to respond to previous requests for an explanation of what has occurred? According to the Chair, previous correspondence was not a request for an explanation but rather a memo from COST department chairs for the FRC to take into consideration certain points. All the members of the FRC received the memo, met, discussed the memo, and voted to rescind the award and make the award to the next highest candidate. The Chair of FRC did not realize a response was expected or needed since the response was actually the Committee vote.

Response: Michael Moore-Senate Moderator

Source: Norman Schmidt, Chair, Faculty Research Committee