

5-13-1999

Proposal on Honors and Recognition Events

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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BROCKPORT

Faculty Senate
State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

**Resolution#26
1998-99
FACULTY SENATE**

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: *May 13, 1999*
RE: I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)
 II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)
 III. Other, For your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)
SUBJ: *Proposal on Honors and Recognition Events*

FACULTY SENATE
SUNY College at Brockport
SEP 08 1999
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

Signed: *Thomas Bonner* Date Sent: *6/21/99*
(*Thomas Bonner, Faculty Senate President*)



TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
a. Accepted. Effective Date: *8/18/99* - *see attached*
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on / /
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation
II, III.
a. Received and acknowledged
b. Comment: _____

DISTRIBUTION: *Administrative Group - see attached*

Distribution Date: *9/3/99* Signed: *Paul Yu*
(*President of the College*)

Resolution Disk::9899-26::ayk

The following comments are provided based on review of Resolution #26, Proposal on Honors and Recognition Events:

Recommendation A: Combine Scholars Day and Spring Honors Ceremony and move to April 5, 2000. **Approved.**

Recommendation B: Addition of Faculty/Staff promotions and continuing appointments to the Fall Honors Ceremony. **Not approved.**

Fall Honors Ceremony should continue to be held on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.-- the designation of the last Friday in October is suggested for planning purposes.

The Events Coordinator should submit a five-year schedule of dates for honors events for President's Staff approval.

Recommendation C: Academic achievement will be the sole focus of honors ceremonies. **Approved.**

Recommendation 2: College Recognition Dinner to be held on Friday evening of the last week of classes in May. **Approved.**

Recommendation 3: Inclusion of the President's Community Service Award and the Better Community Pin and Certificate of Appreciation Ceremony in the College Recognition Dinner. **Not approved.**

Recommendation 4: The College will create expectations that student award recipients should be present at honors ceremonies. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 5: Honor Societies need to coordinate how best to celebrate acknowledgment of inductees. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 6: CSEA/UUP Employee Recognition Breakfast should continue. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 7: The College should develop and launch a comprehensive academic achievement web site that highlights faculty, staff and students who have been honored at the fall and spring honors ceremonies. **The College is revamping its web site and a new web master has just been hired, therefore it is recommended that this item be put on hold at this time.**

- Recommendation 8: Once each semester Academic Affairs will place an ad in the Stylus listing publications, grants, and other significant achievements of our faculty and staff. **Approved.**
- Recommendation 9: College Hour Proposal. **This item has been included in the new Class Scheduling review process currently underway.**
- Recommendation 10: Continuing review of our honors events. **President's Staff suggest that continuing review of our honors events should rest with the Events Coordinator and the Faculty Senate Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees.**

**Environment Committee
Final Proposal on Honors and Recognition Events
to the Faculty Senate**

rev. per Executive Committee 3/29, per Environment Committee 4/1, per Executive Committee 4/12,
per Senate 5/3

Goals

The Environment Committee, with the assistance of Anne Parsons, has identified the following goals for the College's major honors and recognition events.

First, all such events are grounded in the Mission Statement in which we have student success as our highest priority, emphasize student learning, and are committed to *teaching, scholarship, creative endeavors and service* of our faculty and staff.

Secondly, these are in keeping with the third assumption in the College's strategic plan: They are venues for *demonstrating the quality* of our institution. More specifically:

- **Fall Academic Convocation**
To introduce new students to the "culture" of SUNY Brockport, its expectations of quality, and the Mission of the College (to provide high quality education and foster student success).
- **Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony**
To emphasize internally (within the College) TEACHING and Learning, and the excellence of faculty, staff and students.
- **Scholars Day, Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony, and Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony**
To emphasize SCHOLARSHIP both externally (to the community) and internally to increase the visibility of the scholarship of faculty and students to the community and media
 1. to recognize student scholarship by their peers (other students)
 2. to demonstrate the partnership between faculty and students at Brockport
 3. to demonstrate the quality of education at Brockport

In relation to Scholars Day, these goals complement (and in some cases, echo) the purposes long-established by the Scholars Day Committee:

1. To publicize research, including methodologies and conclusions;
2. To share new ideas and concepts;
3. To expand one's knowledge base beyond the traditional classroom; and
4. To socialize with campus citizens outside one's own department and school.

- **Recognition Dinner**
To recognize the excellence of SERVICE to the institution
- **Commencement**
To maintain the prestige, pomp, tradition, and ceremony of the event (College ceremony); to solidify ties to the institution, and to celebrate student success.

Recommendations

Introduction: The Environment Committee looked at all College and departmental honors events as outlined in Appendix A. We have not recommended that any substantive changes be made in the nature and implementation of the following:

- Commencement
 - Scholars Day (see #1 below regarding augmentation)
 - Fall Academic Convocation
 - Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony
 - Employee Recognition Breakfast
 - Employee Appreciation Day/Picnic
 - Spring Honors Foundation Dinner
1. *To best celebrate collegiate-level academic achievement, there will be two Honors and Awards Ceremonies, one to be held in the fall and in the spring. More specifically:*
- A. The Spring ceremony will be held on Scholars Day as the culminating event of that unique SUNY Brockport tradition.**

Rationale: There is some concern that there are too many honors events that drain our resources -- time, personnel and finances. This sentiment was most recently expressed by the Academic Council, which voted to eliminate the Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony, the Committee explored other alternatives rather than opting to eliminate the Fall Ceremony (see below).

Thus, we combined Scholars Day and the Spring Ceremony. This arrangement will make it easier for guests to attend the ceremony, since they'd only have to take an hour out of the work day to attend, rather than scheduling a half-day to attend a 1:30-p.m. Ceremony. Also, because attendance has been low at the Spring Ceremony (too many students simply take the entire afternoon off to start their weekends), we anticipate greater attendance with the new format.

We also recommend that recognition of each year's "high achieving" freshmen (obtaining a 3.25 or better GPA in their first semester) be included in the Spring Ceremony. Instead of a separate reception being held as was previously the tradition, they would join with all other honorees at the reception following the Spring Ceremony.

We would further recommend:

- Beginning the Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony at 4 p.m., running through 5:15 p.m. (the current 4 p.m. Scholars Day sessions can be spread out among sessions earlier in the day); a reception would follow to 6 p.m. and no evening classes would be cancelled
- Making Scholars Day/ Spring Honors Ceremony a Regalia Day, as in the recent past for the both Honors Ceremonies.
- Extending open parking for the entire day to 6 p.m.
- The Foundation's dinner would be moved to the night prior to the new combined events
- Consider the possibility of scheduling Scholars Day/Honors Ceremony later in the semester to accommodate the award process.

Note, however, that we recommend that Alpha Chi continue to hold its own induction ceremony and attendant reception. The ceremony itself is quite a long and intricate one as dictated by the national society's constitution. Alpha Chi inductees will be recognized at the appropriate Honors and Awards Ceremony.

B. The Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony has a distinct function in recognizing collegiate-level academic achievement.

This Ceremony performs a unique function: It recognizes *entering* graduate and undergraduate students, thus providing the College with a powerful retention tool. The honored students are not only recognized, they also serve publicly as role models for their fellow students early in the academic year. Also, the Fall Ceremony provides a timely way to recognize previous spring award recipients who receive their awards well after the Spring Ceremony (e.g. Spring Dean's List students). Further, it has created a time to raise campus morale with an additional spotlight on academic achievement. The need for the Fall Ceremony has grown with the increase in students who should be recognized (Presidential, Distinguished, Dean and Faculty Scholars). The Ceremony also provides an excellent forum for new Distinguished Professors, returning Fulbright Scholars, and Chancellor's Awards recipients -- again, in a public forum where students are in attendance. In addition, we recommend that this event include the recognition of faculty and staff who have been promoted or received tenure the previous late spring and summer. (See Appendix B for an outline of those recognized at both Fall and Spring Honors and Awards Ceremonies.)

Also, we recommend that the one-hour Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony be moved from a Friday afternoon to 4 p.m. on Monday during the time allotted to an Executive Committee meeting. The Faculty Senate schedule can be adjusted in advance and the Executive Committee is a small group that can easily be rescheduled for an alternate time. Class cancellations can be kept to a minimum; only a few classes (4-7:15-pm slot) would need to be cancelled.

We also concur with the recommendation from Sue Hawkes, College events coordinator, to Timothy Flanagan, vice president for academic affairs, that the Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony be held in October; we would specify the fourth Monday, following midterms and the Mid-term Break.

Note: Once these recommendations are approved by the Senate and President Yu, dates for the Fall and Spring Honors and Awards Ceremonies should be set for five years out.

C. Both the Spring and Fall Honors and Awards Ceremonies will have as their sole focus the collegiate-level academic achievement of its students, faculty and staff.

Rationale: We feel that sharpening the focus will give participants a greater sense of pride in their academic achievements. The academic emphasis will not be diluted by recognition of ancillary achievements. And, any confusion that in the past has arisen among the audience of parents, friends and donors would be greatly minimized.

Subsequently, we suggest that the non-academic BASC awards, previously given at the Spring Ceremony, be given at the Recognition Dinner, which has as its focus employee service/achievement.

2. The annual Recognition Dinner will be held on Friday evening of the last week of classes in May.

Rationale: This places the event in advance of the hectic Commencement Week/Finals Week, during which there are already a number of activities such as departmental Commencement ceremonies, not to mention Commencement Day with its own series of events. All these joyful culminating events involve considerable participation by faculty and staff, and we feel it would be better to set aside a separate week for the Recognition Dinner. The first week in May is also late enough in the semester to accommodate the nomination cycle (e.g. for employee awards) and Human Resources Office processing (for longevity). We understand also that BASC can accommodate this change given early notice; in fact, they will not have to hustle to take down the dinner in preparation for another major event in the Ballroom as is now the case. Also, a Friday dinner does not interfere unfairly with faculty who are holding final exams the Thursday of the dinner as now scheduled.

3. Include President's Community Service Award and Better Community Pin and Certificate of Appreciation Ceremony in the Recognition Dinner.

Rationale: The President's Community Service Award is the highest award for service to a student. Including it in the Recognition Dinner gives the award more emphasis. It also allows the College to better acculturate our students to the value of community and college service, as this is the primary event for recognition of service. Similarly, the Better Community Pins and Certificates of Appreciation can be bestowed that evening. Such an enhancement to the Recognition Dinner – with more student involvement – brings students into closer contact with the faculty and staff who are sharing in the honors. Combining the President's Community Service Award with the Recognition Dinner eliminates one event at which the President must be scheduled, while giving the event a larger forum.

4. The College will create the expectation that student award recipients should be present at the Fall and Spring Honors and Awards Ceremonies at which they are being recognized.

Rationale: Members of the Environment Committee and its special guests (Anne Parsons, Eileen Rose, Mark Anderson) expressed disappointment that many recipients fail to attend the Ceremonies to receive their awards in person. While it will require coordination among those individuals and the Brockport College Foundation who bestow the awards, it is vital that the students who receive them be present to celebrate their own success and set an example for their fellow students. Their full participation is a clear demonstration of the quality of the student body and the College. To create this expectation, for example, award notices should include details about the ceremonies (time, date) and why attendance is important.

5. The College's Honor Societies need to coordinate how to best celebrate the achievement of its inductees.

More specifically, we recommend with the accompanying rationales:

- The 18+ honor society inductions would continue to be held at a time and in a manner in which each society prefers. However, these individual inductions will culminate in a single College-wide reception at which all the students gather with their advisors and the President and vice presidents speak to congratulate and recognize new inductees. This will eliminate the competition for the President's and vice presidents' time and energy. It will also give the students a sense of the magnitude of student representation in these societies.
- The Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony and reception will continue to be treated as a College-wide event which should be attended by as many faculty and staff as possible, as well as the senior administration. This is, after all, the highest-level of the many honor societies.
- The Office of Academic Affairs should charge an individual with responsibility for collecting the data (list of advisors, student members) of all the honor societies and oversee a joint strategy meeting among the honor society advisors to develop the reception described above. At the very least, such an effort will help the Office of Marketing Communications generate publicity consistently for all the students thus honored (it is now very spotty depending on which advisors provide the information needed). A cooperative effort should generate a greater commitment on behalf of the advisors to their respective society. (Some societies are inactive or minimally active.) Student success will receive an additional boost.
- Deadline for submission of room reservations for honor society ceremonies should be submitted a year in advance by a predetermined date. Currently, the first-come, first-serve basis for room reservations puts some societies at a disadvantage. There is a limited number of suitable rooms and additional competition for BASC services. More fairness is called for.

6. The CSEA/UUP Employee Recognition Breakfast should be continued.

Rationale: This event recognizes employees who have served 10-, 15- and 20-year employee service terms, in addition to 25+-year employee service terms, providing an opportunity to

celebrate those at the three shorter terms not included at the Recognition Dinner. While it has been noted that many faculty cannot attend the breakfast due to their class schedule, it is widely attended by CSEA (COSAC, Facilities and Planning staff), who do not attend the Recognition Dinner (cost alone is a factor for some). And, because it is held in February, the event can be well-publicized with photographs/captions about the honorees in *Statements*, (which is not published during the summer following the May Recognition Dinner even though recipients' names and accompany awards are listed prior to the Dinner).

Note: It is strongly urged that the sponsoring groups clarify how years of service are defined and the scope of service (Brockport only vs. all service for CSEA employees; part-time vs. full-time, etc.). Also, earlier notification of those to be recognized is encouraged.

7. *Develop and launch a comprehensive academic achievement Web site that highlights faculty, staff, and students who have been honored at the Fall and Spring Honors and Awards Ceremonies.*

Rationale: The Web provides a timely and widely accessible way for the College to demonstrate quality both internally and externally. The site could be maintained easily by "importing" the text of the Honors Ceremonies programs and plugging it into a template. Links would be incorporated to the News Bureau, individual faculty pages, etc.

8. *Similarly, once each semester, Academic Affairs will place an ad in The Stylus listing publications, grants and other significant achievements of our faculty/staff.*

Rationale: The College needs to be more aggressive in communicating to our students the quality of the scholarship and grants activities of its faculty/staff. The Stylus is an ideal communication channel for raising awareness. This small initiative complements the Web site addition noted above.

9. *In the 1999-00 academic year, the Faculty Senate Environment Committee should determine the feasibility of instituting a College Hour to be set aside for student club meetings and College-wide forums (e.g. Open Meetings with President Yu).*

Rationale: There is a need to promote student clubs and activities to provide a feeling of connection between student and College community. Currently, many student clubs meet after classes end – at 9:30 at night. This detracts from their homework and puts an additional strain on advisors who attend their student groups' meetings, schedule guest speakers, etc. We have begun preliminary investigations into the feasibility of a College Hour and want to continue our work before submitting a complete proposal. We ask here for the College's endorsement of this effort to explore the possibility of a College Hour or other option that could permit activities to be held more conveniently.

10. *Responsibility conducting an annual review of College honors events rests with the College Events Coordinator, who will have as a resource the Faculty Senate Environment Committee as an advisory board, along with a new Faculty Senate Ad*

Hoc Academic Honors Subcommittee to be formed as a group within the Environment Committee.

Rationale: As with the Strategic Plan, responsibility for implementation must be assigned to an accountable individual with support from an implementation committee. This recommendation follows that model. In addition, the Events Coordinator is the single person most intimately involved in staging these events, from room reservations to all the logistical details. Similarly, the Faculty Senate Environment Committee has a vested interest and historical background to provide feedback. Its new ad hoc subcommittee would be specifically focused on assisting the Events Coordinator with implementing these recommendations and making further programmatic refinements in our honors events.

Appendix B

Fall Honors and Awards Ceremony

Recognition of Academic Excellence
Recognition of previous spring Dean's List Students
Recognition of previous spring's Honors Program Students
Recognition of Scholar Athletes and All-American Athletes
Recognition of previous spring's 998 Alpha Chi Inductees
Presentation of Students of Academic Excellence
Presentation of Entering Students Awards:
 Academic Program Award Recipients
 Distinguished Scholars (new), Presidential Scholars, International Scholars in
 Residence (new), Dean's Scholars (new), Faculty Scholars (new)
 Underrepresented Graduate Fellowship Program Recipients
 Academic Program Graduate Teaching Assistantships
Recognition of Faculty and Staff Awards and Honors:
 Chancellor's Awards
 Fulbright Scholars
 Distinguished Faculty
 Other national awards
 Faculty/staff promotions and tenures

Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony

Recognition* of fall Dean's List Students
Presentation of College-wide Awards
Presentation of Delta College Commendation Award
 (previously was a response was given; will be moved to Scholars Day panel)
~~Presentation of Executive Director of Educational Opportunity Center Award~~
Response (eliminated)
Presentation of Special Program Scholars
Presentation of School of Arts and Performance Award
 (previously was a response was given; will be moved to Scholars Day panel)
Presentation of Arts and Performance Departmental Awards
Presentation of School of Letters and Science Award
 (previously was a response was given; will be moved to Scholars Day panel)
Presentation of Letters and Sciences Departmental Awards
Presentation of School of Professions Award
 (previously was a response was given; will be moved to Scholars Day panel)
Presentation of Professions Departmental Awards
Presentation of Student Leadership Award
 (previously was a response was given; will be moved to Scholars Day panel)
Presentation of Who's Who's Students (previously called Service and Student Activities
 Awards)
Recognition* of fall Alpha Chi
Presentation of President's Citation
Response by student

**"Recognition" indicates students stand in place to be honored; "Presentation" indicates students proceed to stage to be honored