

**FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BYLAWS**

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## ARTICLE I – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### SECTION 1 – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION

The mission of the alumni association, as stated in the Articles of Association, is to promote the general welfare of Franklin Pierce University; to develop an enduring interest in all affairs of the University through its alumni, undergraduates, former students and friends; and to develop an organization which shall be the means of creating and maintaining the close association of Franklin Pierce University men and women.

### SECTION 2 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MISSION

The Board of Directors of the Franklin Pierce University Alumni Association shall herein be referred to as the board of directors. The mission of the board of directors is to serve alumni, and in doing so, strengthen the bonds between alumni and the University. It shall also serve Franklin Pierce University and its students in support of the University's Mission Statement.

## ARTICLE II – ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1 – MEMBER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Membership of this association shall consist of bona fide alumni of Franklin Pierce College, Franklin Pierce University or physical therapy graduates of Notre Dame College. Such members shall have all of the benefits and privileges of membership, including the right to vote at membership meetings, and shall be eligible for appointment to committees and to hold office in accordance with the bylaws of the association.

### SECTION 2 – DEFINITION OF A FRANKLIN PIERCE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ALUM

A bona fide alum shall be defined as an individual who has received a two-year, four-year or graduate degree or completed a recognized certificate program from Franklin Pierce College, Franklin Pierce University as confirmed through the Registrar's Office at Franklin Pierce University or the physical therapy program at Notre Dame College as confirmed through the graduate studies office at Franklin Pierce University.

## ARTICLE III – ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

### SECTION 1 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY

The management of the association shall be vested in the board of directors, and it shall have the necessary powers to conduct the affairs of the association under these bylaws.

### SECTION 2 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPOSITION

There are to be no more than eighteen elected members of the board of directors serving terms according to the following guidelines:

- A. Elected Term of Office – each director is elected to serve one three year term
- B. Second Term of Office – each director is eligible to be elected to serve one additional three year term without a gap in service
- C. Gap in Terms – after a director has served two complete consecutive three year terms, the director must have a one-year gap in service prior to being eligible to be elected to serve an additional term as a member of the board of directors
- D. Graduate and Professional Studies – there shall be a minimum of three (3) elected positions open to alumni from the satellite campuses of Franklin Pierce University
- E. Membership Continuity – the terms of office shall be arranged so that no more than one-third (1/3) of the membership has terms expiring in one year to maintain continuity of membership and mission
- F. Leave of Absence – a member may request a leave of absence under the following guidelines:
  - a. Leave may not be requested for a period greater than six (6) months

- b. Request should be made in writing, (letter, email, fax) barring exigent circumstances, to the president of the board of directors for presentation and discussion with the executive committee
- c. The approval of the leave will be determined by the executive committee on a case by case basis
- d. The president will provide the decision in writing to the requesting member of the board of directors within a reasonable period of time

G. Attendance Policy

- a. A board member who misses three consecutive meetings at any point during a three year term of office, without being excused by the executive committee, will be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors
- b. A board member who misses three meetings during a program year (alumni leadership retreat counts as two meetings), without being excused by the executive committee, will be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors
- c. All members of the board of directors are required to attend at least 50% of the events and activities of the alumni leadership retreat and alumni and reunion weekend.

### SECTION 3 – DIRECTOR ELECTION PROCESS

An alum may be elected to the board of directors by the following process:

- A. The call for self-nominations shall be communicated to the entire population of the alumni association by means of:
  - a. Notice in the University Magazine or the online news letter
  - b. Notice on the alumni relations web site ([www.franklinperce.edu/alumni](http://www.franklinperce.edu/alumni))
  - c. Other media as determined by the membership and bylaws committee and the University
- B. The schedule for nominations and elections shall be as follows:
  - a. October/November - announcement of elections
  - b. December/January - self-nominations received by alumni relations and reviewed by the membership and bylaws committee for proper eligibility
  - c. March - election to the board of directors will be conducted during the Spring meeting of the board of directors ~ a simple majority of voting ALUMNI is required for election. Absentee voting by electronic or telephonic means will be made available prior to the spring meeting.
  - d. April → July
    - i. election results tabulated by a designated representative of the elections committee shall be completed within ten business days of the election to determine if each candidate and bylaw revision receives at least a majority of the votes cast
    - ii. the results shall be certified at a meeting of the board of directors
    - iii. candidates shall be notified by the president of the board of directors of election outcome
    - iv. orientation materials shall be sent by the alumni relations office to newly elected members of the board of directors
  - e. July – newly elected directors become members of the board of directors on July 1 immediately following regular election (see Article IV Section 3B)

### SECTION 4 – DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS

An alumnus may be appointed to the board of directors, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the directors present at a regular or special meeting (if held for the purpose of appointing a new director) according to the guidelines presented further in this section:

- A. Appointments of (a) director(s) shall only be made or not filled by elections when a vacancy occurs following a resignation of a director or a removal of a director ~ an appointment is only for the duration of the term of the director being replaced
- B. The announcement of an open position for a member of the board of directors shall be made according to the same guidelines as established in Section 3, Subsection A of this article
- C. The schedule for filling the position(s) is to be as follows:
  - a. Deadline for submitting self-nominations shall be set as thirty (30) days beyond the announcement of the vacancy
  - b. Executive committee of the board of directors shall meet and review all self-nominations and determine recommendations to be approved in a vote of the board of directors at the next regular or special meeting (if held for the purpose of appointing a new director)
  - c. Biographical information on candidates to be provided to the members of the board of directors no less than one week prior to the regular or special meeting (if held for the purpose of appointing a new director)
  - d. Candidates shall be notified of the decision regarding the appointment by the president of the board of directors within one week of regular or special meeting where appointment is considered
  - e. Orientation materials shall be sent to new members of the board of directors after the candidates have been notified by the president of the board of directors of the appointment to serve on the board of directors
  - f. All newly appointed members of the board of directors shall officially assume their duties at the effective date of the previous director's departure from membership on the board of directors or at the next convened regular meeting of the board of directors

#### SECTION 5 – REMOVAL OF A DIRECTOR (REASONS)

- A. A director may be considered for removal from membership on the board of directors for the following reasons:
- B. Neglect of Duties:
  - a. Failure to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the board of directors without due cause
  - b. Failure to perform the duties of an office or committee on which the member is serving
  - c. Failure to fulfill the requirements of membership as outlined on the directors roles and responsibilities document provided to each member at orientation
- C. Abuse of Power – shall be defined as the failure to abide by the bylaws of the alumni association
- D. Financial Contributions – each member is expected to contribute funds philanthropically to the annual fund, dedicated fund or capital campaign
- E. Conflict of Interest – members who maintain a fee for service or payroll relationship with Franklin Pierce University may not serve as members of the board of directors

#### SECTION 6 – REMOVAL OF A DIRECTOR (PROCESS)

The board of directors shall follow the procedure outlined below for investigation and possible removal of a member of the board of directors:

- A. A motion to initiate the process for removal of a member of the board of directors must be approved by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the entire board of directors
- B. The hearing date is established by the board of directors when a motion is approved and is no less than three (3) weeks from the date of the approval of the motion to initiate the removal of a member
- C. The alumni relations director shall provide no less than two (2) weeks notice in writing to the members of the board of directors of the hearing date, time and location
- D. At least one half (1/2) of the members of the board of directors (including the candidate for removal) shall constitute a quorum at the hearing to determine the removal of the candidate

- E. A three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of the members present at the hearing shall be required for removal of the member of the board of directors
- F. The president of the board of directors shall notify the candidate for removal in writing of the decision within seven (7) business days of the decision

## ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS AND AMENDMENTS

### SECTION 1 – ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the alumni association shall be held on the Rindge Campus during the annual Alumni and Reunion Weekend with a quorum consisting of a minimum of 20 members of the alumni association

### SECTION 2 – SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- A. A special meeting of the alumni association may be called at any time by the president of the board of directors, a simple majority of the members of the board of directors or upon written request of at least twenty-five (25) members of the alumni association to discuss a specific issue relevant to the management of the alumni association.
- B. The specific issue must be clearly stated in the request for the special meeting.
- C. The meeting date shall be established by the president of the board of directors when the formal request is received
- D. The alumni relations director shall announce the special meeting with no less than four (4) weeks notice to the members of the alumni association on the alumni relations website and in writing to the requesting parties and members of the board of directors
- E. Ten (10) members of the alumni association shall constitute a quorum at the special meeting

### SECTION 3 – REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Regular meetings of the alumni association board of directors shall be held a minimum of three times per calendar year on such dates and times as established by the board of directors
- B. The organizational meeting shall be held in the summer of each year where newly elected members shall assume the duties of their position
- C. Meeting dates, times and locations shall be posted on the alumni relations web site
- D. A regular meeting of the board of directors shall be called to order and conduct business so long as a simple majority of the actively serving board membership (not including those on leave of absence) is present

### SECTION 4 – SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. A special meeting of the alumni association board of directors may be called at any time by the president of the board of directors or upon written request of a least three (3) members of the board of directors to discuss a specific issue
- B. The specific issue must be clearly stated in the request for the special meeting
- C. The meeting date shall be established by the president of the board of directors when formal request is received
- D. The alumni relations director shall announce the special meeting in writing with no less than four (4) weeks notice to the members of the board of directors
- E. No less than one-half (1/2) of the members of the alumni association board of directors shall constitute a quorum at the special meeting

### SECTION 5 – AMENDMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

The bylaws of the Franklin Pierce University Alumni Association may be amended by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the general membership present at a special meeting (called to amend the bylaws), the annual meeting, or in a vote coinciding with the election of members of the board of directors

Proposed changes to the bylaws shall be forwarded to the alumni relations director who shall collaborate with the board of directors utilizing the following procedure:

- A. Changes shall be forwarded to the bylaws committee for review of clarity, structure and continuity with other provisions of the bylaws
- B. The bylaws committee shall submit their recommendation to the board of directors for determination on submitting the proposed change(s) to the alumni association general membership
- C. The alumni relations director shall determine the appropriate avenue to issue ballots to the general membership of the alumni association once the board of directors has approved such changes

The board of directors may amend or set aside a provision of the bylaws on a temporary and emergency basis by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the board of directors present at a regular meeting or at a special meeting held to amend the bylaws. This decision is subject to review by the alumni association general membership at the next meeting of the alumni association or the next election process.

## ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### SECTION 1 – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The officers of the alumni association shall be the president, vice president for external relations, vice president for academic relations, the chair of the alumni and relations committee and the chair of the membership and bylaws committee. Other officers may be appointed by the board of directors when deemed necessary to execute the objectives and purpose of the association.

### SECTION 2 – OFFICER TERM LIMITS

- A. The officers shall be elected from among the members of the board of directors at the Spring meeting
- B. The president shall be elected for a term of two (2) years
- C. The vice presidents and committee chairs shall be elected for a term of two (2) years
- D. If the president-elect is serving the last year of his/her first three year term, the individual term of office shall be extended for the duration of the term of president at the time of election. The president-elect must be re-elected to membership on the board of directors in a regular election at the end of his/her term as president
- E. If the president-elect is elected to serve beyond the end of his/her second three year term, s/he must step down from membership on the board of directors at the end of the term as president for the one year waiting period prior to being considered for re-election to membership on the board of directors
- F. The officers of the board of directors will be elected for staggering terms so that the entire executive committee is not being replaced at the same time. The board of directors will determine the term appointments for the officers on an as needed basis.

### SECTION 3 – ELECTION TO POSITION AS AN OFFICER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The officers of the board of directors are selected as follows:

- A. Nominations are to be received by the election chair (see Article V, Subsection D, Bullet F, Sub-bullet iii) (or his/her designee) in a time frame to be announced by the elections chair
- B. The elections chair (or designee) shall prepare the ballot for each position where more than one nomination has been received
- C. The slate of nominated candidates for officer positions shall be sent in writing to the members of the board of directors no less than one week prior to the Spring meeting
- D. The members of the board of directors present shall elect the officers at the Spring meeting

### SECTION 4 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The president shall have the following Responsibilities:

- A. Preside at all meetings of the alumni association and the board of directors
- B. Serve as chair of the executive committee
- C. Ensure compliance of the members of the board of directors regarding the roles and responsibilities
- D. Represent the alumni association at events when requested by the University
- E. Work in close cooperation with the alumni relations director, executive committee and board of directors
- F. Other duties as assigned by these bylaws, directed by the board of directors or requested by an administrator of the University

#### SECTION 5 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS

The responsibilities of the vice presidents shall be as follows:

- A. Vice President for Academic Relations
  - a. The vice president for academic relations shall serve as the third in succession should the president or vice president for external relations be unavailable to execute the duties of their office(s).
  - b. Serve as chair of the academic relations committee of the alumni association with responsibility for considering alumni engagement activities for the following programs:
    - i. Alumni Student Referral Program
    - ii. Pierce Alumni Career Education program
    - iii. Alumni Association Scholarship Program
    - iv. College of Graduate and Professional Studies Alumni Engagement Program
  - c. Represent the alumni association at events when requested by the University
  - d. Work in close cooperation with the alumni relations director, executive committee and the board of directors
  - e. Other duties as assigned by these bylaws, directed by the board of directors or requested by an administrator of the University
- B. Vice President for External Relations
  - a. Shall execute the responsibilities of the president when s/he is not available, upon his/her request or upon his/her resignation or removal from the board of directors
  - b. The vice president for external relations shall be responsible for collaborating with the alumni relations office in engaging alumni for programming through chapters, affinity opportunity programs, specialized outreach groups and serving as chair of the external relations committee
  - c. Collaborating with the alumni relations and development offices regarding non-chapter events to increase awareness of the alumni association and the University
  - d. Represent the alumni association at events when requested by the University
  - e. Work in close cooperation with the alumni relations director, executive committee and the board of directors
  - f. Other duties as assigned by these bylaws, directed by the board of directors or requested by an administrator of the University

#### SECTION 6 – FILLING A VACANCY ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. A vacancy in the position of president shall be filled by the vice president for external relations for the duration of the original term of office.
- B. A vacancy in any position of vice president may be filled by one of the directors for the remainder of the elected according to the election procedures established in section 3 of this article.

#### ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMMITTEES

The alumni association board of directors may create and appoint committees as necessary to execute the duties of the association.

- A. The chair of each committee must be a member of the board of directors
- B. Every non-executive committee member of the board of directors is required to serve on one (1) standing committee of the alumni association board of directors
- C. The president of the alumni association board of directors is an ex-officio member of every standing committee with the exception of the executive committee chaired by the president
- D. Alumni who are not members of the board of directors are eligible to serve as members of committees of the board of directors
- E. Committee Chairs are responsible for the following:
  - a. Submit a written report to the president no less than two (2) weeks prior to every meeting of the alumni association board of directors
  - b. Coordinate recruitment of non-members of the board of directors to serve on committees of the board of directors
  - c. Prepare an annual report of the committee to be presented and discussed at the retreat meeting of the alumni association board of directors to include the following:
    - i. Specific goals and action plans for the coming program year
    - ii. Successes and opportunities evaluated from the previous program year

## SECTION 2 – STANDING COMMITTEES

The following standing committees are necessary to execute the duties of the alumni association. The board of directors may appoint ad-hoc committees to supplement these committees as necessary to execute the duties of the association.

- A. Executive Committee – chaired by the president of the board of directors, this committee shall consist of the vice presidents of the board of directors, the chair of the alumni and reunion weekend committee, the chair of the membership and bylaws committee and the alumni relations director (ex-officio)
  - a. Serve as liaisons with the administration of the University
  - b. Represent the board of directors and/or alumni association when requested by the board of directors or the administration of the University
  - c. Meet periodically to monitor the progress of the alumni association and the board of directors
- B. Academic Relations Committee – chaired by the vice president for academic relations of the board of directors, the committee is responsible for:
  - a. Assisting the admissions office when requested in remote efforts to recruit students
  - b. Support the efforts of the alumni relations and career planning & placement administrators to engage alumni to support job shadowing, mentoring and career programs on any campus of Franklin Pierce University
  - c. Engage alumni to attend networking opportunities for current students and alumni
  - d. Collaborate with the alumni relations director and representative from CGPS in support of programming for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies alumni
  - e. In cooperation with student financial services and alumni relations offices announce the scholarship program
- C. External Relations Committee – chaired by the vice president for external relations of the board of directors, the committee is responsible for:
  - a. Encourage alumni participation in the annual fund and other philanthropic events of the University
  - b. Assist the alumni relations and development offices with engaging alumni and friends of the University to attend networking receptions, chapter events, and special events of the University

- c. Search out and review potential affinity opportunity programs after review by the alumni relations director and recommend approval or disapproval to the board of directors
  - d. Manage and monitor the progress of the affinity opportunity programs in cooperation with the alumni relations office to report to the board of directors
  - e. Provide leadership, oversight and support to the alumni chapter and young alumni programs in collaboration with the alumni relations office
  - f. Create and support specialized outreach committees for specific populations of the alumni association in conjunction with the alumni relations director
- D. Membership and Bylaws Committee – chaired by a member of the board of directors, the committee is responsible for:
- a. The chair of the membership and bylaws committee is a voting member of the executive committee of the alumni association board of directors
  - b. Propose or review proposed changes to the bylaws and submitting recommendations on proposed changes to the board of directors according to Article IV, Section 5 of these bylaws
  - c. Coordinate communication of the bylaws to the alumni association and board of directors through channels deemed appropriate by the board of directors and the alumni relations director
  - d. Coordinate nominating efforts for candidates to be considered for election to serve on the board of directors
  - e. Collaborate with the alumni relations director in certifying the balloting for all elections
  - f. The chair of this committee shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the board of directors tasked with the following:
    - i. interpreting the bylaws in accord with Robert’s Rules of Order
    - ii. providing guidance to the board of directors
    - iii. overseeing the election process(es) in conjunction with the alumni relations director
- E. Alumni and Reunion Weekend Committee – chaired by a member of the board of directors, the committee is responsible for:
- a. The chair of the alumni and reunion weekend committee is a voting member of the executive committee of the alumni association board of directors
  - b. Collaborating with the alumni relations office in engaging alumni to participate in class reunions and the overall alumni and reunion weekend events
  - c. Assisting the alumni relations director and development office in engaging alumni to volunteer as class agents and class correspondents
  - d. Actively working with the alumni relations director and alumni relations office to provide feedback and support the execution of alumni and reunion weekend activities
  - e. Class correspondents shall work with the alumni relations office to engage alumni from their classes to attend networking opportunities for current students and alumni, regional chapter events and special events of Franklin Pierce University.
- F. Awards Selection Committee – chaired by the President of Alumni Association the committee is responsible for, the selection of the Alumni Association Awards and is comprised of:
- The President of the Alumni Association (Chair) [non voting except in a tie situation]
  - The senior member of each standing committee of the Alumni Association (other than the Committee Chair) [voting]
  - Past award recipients whom agree to participate [voting]
  - The Director of Alumni Relations [non-voting]
- a. Stipulations for those serving as the Award Selection Committee are as follows:
    - i. If the President of the Alumni Association is an award nominee, then his/her replacement on the committee will be the Vice President for External Relations.

- ii. The President, at his/her discretion, can appoint another member of the Alumni Association Executive Committee to serve as Chair.
  - iii. The President of the Alumni Association may serve on the committee in consecutive years.
  - iv. If the senior member of a standing committee has served on the Award Selection Committee in the previous year, then the next most senior member of that standing committee will take his/her place. This will ensure that no standing committee member serves on the Award Selection Committee in consecutive years.
  - v. Past award recipients may serve on the Award Selection Committee in consecutive years.
- b. This committee convenes at the spring board meeting and adjourns at the Alumni Leadership Retreat or upon announcement of award recipients.

## ARTICLE VII – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

### SECTION 1 - THE AWARDS AND CRITERIA

- A. Alumni Participation Award: presented to an alum whose sustained participation in alumni activities and philanthropic support of the University is worthy of recognition. The recipient, while engaged in alumni activities and philanthropic support, will have demonstrated characteristics of leadership, creativity and commitment that have a positive effect on the advancement of alumni relations at the University. The intent of this award is to acknowledge the recipient's participation in and service to the Franklin Pierce University Alumni Association.
- B. Outstanding Service Award: presented to an individual who has provided exemplary service to Franklin Pierce University. The recipient will have demonstrated strong characteristics of leadership, dedication, cooperation and influence on programs and/or activities at the University. Recipients may be selected from past or present members of the faculty, staff, administration, alumni or friends of the University. The intent of this award is to recognize the recipient's service to Franklin Pierce University.
- C. Leader of Conscience Award: consistent with the goals of Franklin Pierce University's 'Statement of Institutional Vision', the Leader of Conscience Award is presented to an alum who demonstrates high levels of intellect and character as well as generosity of spirit that includes a history of philanthropic support to the University. This individual is balanced in weighing options, is open to new ideas but decisive in pursuing a chosen course, while seeking ways to improve upon a current condition. The nominee is careful in the judgment of those with whom they interact, is gentle in the care of souls they influence, and inspirational and nurturing of similar qualities in others. The intent of this award is to acknowledge the recipient's dedication to building community beyond Franklin Pierce University through service to others above self.

### SECTION 2 - SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

- A. Nominations for the awards may be made in writing by an alum, an administrator, faculty or staff member of Franklin Pierce University or by a member of the community at large and can be made year round on the Alumni web site. Nominations will be promoted at all alumni events, advertised in each edition of the Radius and Alumni Perspective magazine and other media as deemed appropriate for communicating the awards, their criteria and selection process.
- B. The nomination deadline will be March 1<sup>st</sup> of a given year for presentation in the following academic year at the Evening of Excellence. (i.e. March 1, 2009 nominations would be awarded in the Fall 2010 after consideration and vetting).

### SECTION 3 - NOMINATION REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Nominations for the various awards received by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline of each year will be forwarded to the Alumni Relations Director. Once received, the Alumni Relations Director will provide additional information on the candidate including:
  - a. Nominee's philanthropic support to the University
  - b. Alumni event attendance history
  - c. Previous Alumni Association award history
- B. This additional information will be provided in the nominee's background packet in time for the spring meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors so that it can be forwarded to the Award Committee. The Award Committee will consider the nominated candidates between the spring Board meeting and the Alumni Leadership Retreat in July.
- C. Not all awards need to be bestowed upon a recipient each year. If there are no nominees for an award, or if the selection committee determines that those nominated do not meet the criteria for an award as established, then the award will not be presented.
- D. The Award selection Committee will confer as directed by the Chair (in person meetings, conference calls, web casts, etc) between the spring meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the scheduled Alumni Leadership Retreat. The purpose of conferring is to gain a consensus on those nominated for the various awards so that the recipients can be announced at the Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting held on the Sunday of the Alumni Leadership Retreat. The recipient will be so advised of being selected by the Alumni Relations Office and will either accept or decline the award for which they have been chosen.
- E. A simple majority vote (51%) of the committee will determine the recipient for a given award. A runner-up recipient will also be chosen in the same manner in the event that the first recipient selection declines the award. A past award recipient may only receive another Alumni Association award if the Award Selection Committee determines that there are clearly extenuating circumstances that warrant the granting of the second award. If the Award Selection Committee believes that none of the nominated candidates for a particular award deserves, then the committee can recommend that the award not be bestowed for that year.