Committee Members Present: Bob Davis, Philip Flynn, Linda Gottfredson (committee advisor), Rhonda Hyde, Katharine Kerrane, and Dennis Mertz.

1. Sitting in for Mohsen, Linda called the meeting to order at 8:40. Bob asked for a round of applause to acknowledge Linda’s receiving the Faculty Senate’s award for service. Linda volunteered to take the minutes, hoping for another round of applause.

2. Minutes. She then forgot to ask that the minutes for the April 15, 2005 meeting be approved.

3. Meeting times and dates for 2005-2006. The Committee decided to reserve Hullihen 130 again for its meetings, to be held 8:30-10:00 a.m. on the following Fridays: 9/23, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 3/17, 4/21, and 5/12. All the February through May meetings are essential, but perhaps not all the others will actually be required.

4. Continuing discussion of clerical-technical needs. Linda reported that she and Mohsen plan to familiarize Karren with the Committee’s new database nomination system and website so that she can take over all the routine tasks entailed in those new systems and also provide more institutional memory for new chairs. The committee will always need access to occasional technical expertise, either for the website or the database, and it discussed the merits of obtaining it from students already on the payroll vs. having access to a permanent employee with the relevant expertise for an hour now and then. There was agreement that new members need a preview of events and responsibilities at the beginning of the year and that any committee calendar of events and associated materials be available to all in the simplest way possible, whether in paper or electronic form.

5. Proposal on Alison Award. Bob recommended that the very long lag between selecting the Alison recipient and the events honoring the recipient be reduced by switching the named chairs’ dinner from fall to spring and the Alison dinner from spring to fall. After considering the specifics involved, the Committee suggested that Bob propose this switch to the President and Provost, that the new recipient give his/her lecture at the proposed fall Alison dinner, and that this year’s recipient be announced shortly after the current recipient’s May lecture. Announcing the recipient in late spring would allow the Committee to continue to review the Alison dossiers at the end of the committee year after they are familiar with all the committee’s awards. This would also minimize the time between submission of dossiers and notification. The timing adopted this year for soliciting and reviewing dossiers would mesh perfectly with this proposal.

6. Proposal on Honors Day Program Booklet. Bob suggested that the booklet be brought back more in line with the intent of Honors Day by including only awards and not scholarships. Katharine also raised the concern that Honors Day festivities require our best students to miss some classes to receive awards and to miss being with their parents to attend the remainder. The Committee decided to survey the colleges this summer in order to gather more information about all awards in the booklet (e.g., award vs. scholarship, whether merit-based if a scholarship, academic or not, who picks the winner, donor if any, and whether actually recognized on Honors Day). Bob, Katharine, Dennis, and Linda agreed to contact particular colleges
as survey plans proceed. The aim of the survey would be to determine the exact nature of all awards currently in the booklet and thereby better determine the best time to publicly recognize the various kinds of honors. Honors Day could focus on the academic awards, with scholarships being recognized more often in fall activities of various types (such as small breakfasts at Homecoming). Such flexibility would give students and donors greater opportunity to meet and be recognized.

7. **On-Line Honors Day Program.** Committee members again noted the desirability of having an online directory of all awards in the booklet. This would allow students who receive awards letters from their colleges to see what the awards are for and who sponsors them. Colleges have said that it is not feasible for them to include such information in their letters to students.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

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Minutes Submitted 5/14/2005 by Linda Gottfredson