



The Sullivan Awards Committee

I. Introduction

In accordance with the University's Memorandum of Agreement with the New York Southern Society, April 8, 1927, each year the University recognizes up to three (3) persons - a graduating female, a graduating male, and a non-student - who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service. The Sullivan Awards Committee is responsible for selecting the recipients of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards.

II. Membership

- A. The Committee is appointed by the President, who also designates the Chair.
- B. The Committee shall be comprised of individuals from the faculty. Members other than those with ex officio status normally shall have staggered three-year appointments.
- C. One representative of the Office of Philanthropy and one representative of the Office of Alumni Affairs shall serve as ex officio members of the Committee.
- D. The Committee shall report directly to the President, or designee.

III. Responsibilities

- A. In carrying out its responsibilities the Committee shall consult as necessary with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the University Registrar, the appropriate deans of the colleges in determining the eligibility of student graduates, and with others as appropriate for the non-student award.
- B. The Committee shall follow stipulations of eligibility, qualifications, and the making of awards established in the memorandum of agreement with the New York Southern Society as follows:

"The Award may be made to three persons each year but not more than three, that is to say, to not more than one man and one woman of the graduating class of the Institution for that year, and one other person who is not a student of the Institution, who need not be a graduate of any College or University, but who shall have some interest in, association with or relation to said Institution, official or otherwise, of a nature to make this form of recognition by said Institution obviously appropriate and insure his or her proper appreciation of the same."

"In the selection of the recipients nothing shall be considered except the possession of such characteristics of heart, mind, and conduct as evince a spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women. If in any year the Faculty shall be of the opinion that no member of the graduating class has displayed the required qualities so conspicuously as to merit the Award, no

Award shall be made to students for that year, for it is intended and desired that the Award shall be a real distinction to be conferred only upon those who conspicuously deserve it, not merely in comparison with their fellow students, but by the possession, judged by an absolute standard, of the qualities before mentioned. The same basis in judgment shall control in the cases of other persons who are not students of the Institution."

"The Award shall be made only in recognition of fine spiritual qualities practically applied to daily living, as distinct from high scholarship, athletic achievement, success in business, professional ability, political leadership, or mere worldly prominence in any calling. Nevertheless, by no means does the Society fail to realize that the highest spiritual and humanitarian qualities can be found in intimate and inseparable association with a successful pursuit of all the above mentioned avocations."

"The Institution shall keep a record of the awards made, the names of the recipients, the dates of Awards, and the grounds on which they are in each instance made, and shall annually give to the Society a copy of the record of that year."

- C. The Committee shall establish a calendar for its work, undertake necessary announcements and solicitation of nominations from the University faculty and deans, and the presidents and advisers of all student organizations and dormitories.
- D. The Committee shall establish practices of screening that protect the confidentiality of individual records. It shall maintain a record of those receiving the awards and submit appropriate materials to the University Archives on a regular basis.
- E. The Chair shall oversee the selection process, secure the medallions and certificates, have these engraved, and submit these in advance along with recommended narrative of each recipient's character and accomplishments to the President. The Chair may be asked to prepare reports required by the New York Southern Society, to undertake regular appraisal of the processes of selection, and to perform such other duties as may be necessary to the purpose of the Committee.

References and Related Materials

Memorandum of Agreement and Gift between the New York Southern Society and the University of Kentucky, April 8, 1927

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation website: <https://www.sullivanfdn.org/>

UK Sullivan Award website: <http://www.uky.edu/SullivanAward/history.htm>

Revision History

6/15/1989, 7/19/1992, 6/1/2001, 1/26/2009, 9/2/2015

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For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)