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RULES: RECTOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY INTERACTION

1. Policy, purpose and status

1.1 In terms of its Community Interaction Policy, the University accepts:

1. a *new paradigm* for community interaction where teaching, research and community interaction are better integrated and culminate in a multidisciplinary approach. The ongoing restructuring of academic programmes to include community interaction (including service-learning) and community-based research is therefore encouraged and reinforced. (par. 5.1);
2. that priority will be given to transfer of knowledge to and the learning experiences of *students*, being the University's most important clientele. Community interaction aims therefore to add value to the development of critical thinking skills of students in synergy with teaching and research, thus contributing to their preparation for active participation as South African citizens in their future careers. (par. 5.2);
3. the inclusion of community interaction in the appraisal of its *personnel*, and the introduction of incentives for members of staff who actively contribute towards strengthening the University's role-playing in the community and the successful implementation of the University's community interaction policy and strategy. (par.5.3);
4. the *voluntary engagement* with the community by staff and students as part of initiatives by their departments and sections. The continuation and autonomy of such activities are supported, but remain subject to the organised framework created by this policy. (par. 5.5)

1.2 The purpose of the Rector's Award for Excellence in Community Interaction, in terms of par. 5.3 of the Community Interaction Policy, is to regularly acknowledge full-time academic and support staff in faculties who conduct excellent community interaction.

1.3 The Rector's Award for Excellence in Community Interaction is the highest form of acknowledgement by the university to academic and support staff in faculties for excellent community interaction achievements. Consequently, faculties are requested to ensure that other awards for community interaction that are made from resources under the control of the University in the context of the faculty do not detract from the prestige of the Rector's Award for Excellence in Community Interaction.

2. The award

2.1 The award is known as the Rector's Award for Excellence in Community Interaction.

- 2.2 Full-time staff members in academic environments who have been associated with the University for at least two years qualify for the Rector's Award for Excellence in Community Interaction. The Executive Committee of Senate has the authority to decide if *other people* may be considered for the Rector's Award from time to time.
- 2.3 Every year, the University usually makes ten *ad personam* awards for excellence in community interaction, based on open competition within each faculty.
- 2.4 The specific circumstances under which community interaction takes place within the various faculties and departments are acknowledged.
- 2.5 The award is embodied in a certificate and in a cash amount that is determined each year.
- 2.6 The award may not be made to the same person two years in a row. The Senior Director: Community Interaction is responsible for updating the record of all awards made in terms of these rules.

3. Conditions

- 3.1 The recipient of the award should use the cash amount for purposes related to community interaction.
- 3.2 The amount concerned should normally be used within two years of receiving the award.
- 3.3 The recipient's utilisation of the awarded amount within a specific year is independent of the allocation of funding from other sources.

4. Procedure

- 4.1 The Rector, or his delegate, determines the time schedules for the procedure and issues an open invitation to all full-time staff members of the University, and who qualify for the award, to nominate themselves to the relevant dean.
- 4.2 After consultation with the chairperson of the Community Interaction Committee of Senate, a dean, together with his/her management team may also identify candidates for the award.
- 4.3 The final responsibility for the assessment of candidates within a faculty resides with the relevant dean, with the aid of his management. If preferred (by the dean and his/her management), he/she may also act on the advice of any other acceptable body, e.g. external assessors, the faculty's Community Interaction Committee or the Community Interaction Committee of Senate.
- 4.4 Reports of community partners, other reports on Community Interaction input and output and performance evaluations are taken into account.
- 4.5 Both staff members who have nominated themselves, as well as those who have been identified by the deans in conjunction with their management, will be invited by the relevant dean to submit a full *curriculum vitae* and other material specified by the dean for use in the evaluation.

- 4.6 When a submission is considered or evaluated, the following criteria should be used:
1. the level of depth and continuity in the staff member's community interaction programme;
 2. the extent to which scientifically-justified methods and techniques are used;
 3. the extent to which a staff member is informed of new community interaction topics that are of current importance within his/her discipline and fields of specialisation respectively;
 4. the extent to which a researcher takes note of the community interaction plans and programmes of other institutions beyond the University, and as far as possible has used the opportunities these plans and programmes present;
 5. the extent to which a staff member pursues dialogue and collaboration with other community interaction practitioners in South Africa and abroad;
 6. the extent to which meaningful output is produced by the staff member, taking into account the specific environment in which the staff member works ;
 7. the extent to which a staff member communicates his/her community interaction via papers at national and international conferences and/or via publication in journals and other media, and where possible also in ways that are accessible to the public;
 8. the extent to which the staff member's community interaction has been acknowledged – taking peer reviews into account;
 9. the extent to which the researcher has contributed to the extension of community interaction expertise in the particular environment; and
 10. the extent to which the researcher has improved the profile of the University through the quality of his/her community interaction and its publication.
- 4.7 If no suitable candidates can be identified for an award in a given faculty in any particular year, the unutilised award opportunity may be held over for use in a subsequent round of awards.
- 4.8 On completion of the evaluation, each dean submits the name of the candidate who has been nominated for the award, together with a brief motivation, to the Senior Director: Community Interaction so that the formal requirements, including periods of service and previous awards (see for example par. 2.2, 2.6, and 4.7) of the nominees, may be checked. Once this has been done, the Senior Director: Community Interaction submits the details of the nominees, together with his/her comments where necessary, to the Rector for ratification.
- 4.9 The Rector submits the names of the successful candidates to the Community Interaction Committee of Senate and to the Executive Committee of Senate for their information.
- 4.10 With due allowance for par. 4.1, the Rector determines the time and nature of the award ceremony.