The Academic Awards Committee reviewed nominations for university-wide undergraduate academic awards, as well as for several departmental and interdepartmental prizes. Award nominations – solicited from faculty and staff members, deans, department chairs, and program directors in early January – were due in mid-February. Award nomination packets were compiled by the Division of Undergraduate Education for review by the committee. Assessment of candidates and selection of award recipients took place in late February and early March.

This year’s committee consisted of thirteen faculty members appointed from various departments in the School of Arts and Sciences, and two faculty members from the School of Engineering. There also were three voting ex officio members: the dean of academic advising and undergraduate studies, the dean of student affairs, and the director of financial aid.

Special thanks to Joanne Ferguson (Undergraduate Education) and Joan Puglia (Administrative Services) whose meticulous attention to detail ensured that the entire awards process and the April 15 ceremony ran flawlessly.

Important dates for the year were:

- January 4, 2016: First electronic mailing to faculty, chairs and program directors about academic award nominations. Department chairs and assistants also received a hard copy of this information.

- February 1, 2016: Second electronic reminder to department chairs and assistants about academic award nominations.

- February 19, 2016: Award nominations due by 5:00pm.

- February 29, 2016: Trunk invitation to committee members to access the 2016 general award nominations and other information. Because of the large number of nominations and the short time committee members had to read them, the committee was divided into three groups with people reading and ranking the award nominations assigned to their group. As always committee members had the option of reading more than just their group’s nominations, and several people chose to read the award nominations in all three groups. Members were asked to rank their top three to five candidates for each award.


- **March 9, 2016, 4:00-8:00pm:** Dinner meeting in Dowling Hall during which committee members conferred and selected winners for all general prizes and scholarships. Departmental prizes and scholarships were determined by the respective departments. Winners of competitive prizes and scholarships such as the Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize and the Marshall Hochhauser Prize were chosen by their committees.

- **April 15, 2016:** The 116th Honors Convocation took place in Cohen Auditorium at 7:30pm, following a performance by sQ! As Committee Chair, I served as host once again. We were delighted to have a platform party consisting of Anthony Monaco, 13th President of Tufts University; Carmen Lowe, Dean of Academic Advising and Undergraduate Studies; Mary Pat McMahon, Dean of Student Affairs; Associate Professor Richard Eichenberg, Department of Political Science, winner of the 2015 Leibner Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising, and the evening’s keynote speaker. Thanks to judicious script editing by Carmen Lowe, Joie Cummings, and me, we were able to cut one hour off the ceremony, finishing at 9:45pm! That left more time for people to enjoy a dessert reception in Alumnae Lounge at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

- It is always inspiring to celebrate our students’ stellar achievements in so many areas, as well as their impressive commitment to active citizenship.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barbara Wallace Grossman, Professor, Drama and Dance; Chair, Academic Awards Committee

On behalf of committee members:
- Timothy Atherton, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy
- Marie-Claire Beaulieu, Assistant Professor, Classics
- Ikumi Kaminishi, Associate Professor, Art & Art History
- Sergiy Kryatov, Senior Lecturer, Chemistry
- Frank Lehman, Assistant Professor, Music
- Carmen Lowe, Dean of Academic Advising and Undergraduate Studies, *ex officio*, voting
- Mary Pat McMahon, Dean of Student Affairs, *ex officio*, voting
- Paul Muentener, Assistant Professor, Psychology
- Vincent Pollina, Associate Professor, Romance Languages
- Dennis Rasmussen, Associate Professor, Political Science (on leave Spring 2016)
- Kamran Rastegar, Associate Professor, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures (on leave 2015-2016)
- Patricia Reilly, Financial Aid Director, *ex officio*, voting
- Anil Saigal, Professor, Mechanical Engineering (on leave Spring 2016)
Anna Sajina, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy
Loring Tu, Professor, Mathematics
Eric Tytell, Assistant Professor, Biology
Qiaobing Xu, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Support Staff:
Joanne Ferguson, Undergraduate Education
Joan Puglia, Administrative Services
Joie Cummings, Undergraduate Education