Draft proposal for Alternative
Student of the Year award process

After review of the Student of the Year process over the past year and extensive discussion by members of the Student Affairs Team (SAT), it appears to us that the efficacy of this award has diminished as our campus has grown in size and complexity. Identifying only one undergraduate and one graduate student from the entire student body to be recognized as Student of the Year has become more problematic as we increase in size and scope. In addition the interest in this award on the part of our students has diminished as evidenced by a downward trend in the number of applications submitted and the overall quality of the pool of applicants. As a result of this current set of circumstances, the SAT of the Faculty Senate recommends the following for action by the full Senate:

1. The annual university awards of Undergraduate Student of the Year and the Graduate Student of the Year are sunset as a University award designated by the faculty Senate.

2. In their place, each college of the University is encouraged to identify outstanding undergraduate and graduate students of the year using criteria identified by each college.

3. Individual colleges faculty will establish specific criteria to recognize a minimum of one undergraduate and one graduate student graduating from their college each year to be recognized in the spring. In the event that colleges wish to recognize more than one student in each category, we recommend that no more than one (1) student, per thousand students enrolled in the college by headcount, be recognized each year.

4. All students identified and recognized in this matter be given an appropriate recognition by the college (i.e., a plaque, framed certificate, trophy, etc.) for their personal use and be recognized at the Celebration of Excellence held each spring.

5. Each college could hold a special recognition ceremony for their respective Student of the Year award if they chose to do so, in addition to the Celebration of Excellence Ceremony.

6. In addition to recognition at the Celebration of Excellence, all recipients will be recognized in the spring commencement program with photographs and short
biographies so that the entire university community can acknowledge their contributions to Florida Gulf Coast University.

7. Criteria used to select the current Students of the Year, including evidence of scholarship, service, and leadership, should be considered for inclusion in individual college students of the year awards. Additional criteria and selection processes or alternative processes for selection will be determined by the faculty of each college for their respective awards.

8. We recommend this action to take place immediately and that the colleges select their recipients for the spring 2012 Celebration of Excellence and commencement ceremonies.

9. We recommend that these awards be called [NAME OF COLLEGE] Undergraduate Student of the Year and [NAME OF COLLEGE] Graduate Student of the Year. This does not prohibit the possibility of naming of awards from donors or outstanding faculty members as an honor appropriate to that process. Example: The John Q Smith Undergraduate Student of the Year, or The Ruth J Williams Graduate Student of the Year. Each college will ultimately determine the final name for the award to recognize respective students of the year in their college and will inform the Faculty Senate.

10. We recommend that each college submit the name(s) of their Student(s) of the Year to faculty senate by April 1 of each academic year.