

Workshop materials for “How wicked is Bipolar Engagement?!”

The materials consist of a handout (bipolar.pdf) explaining the concepts, and a set of props (this document) containing an agenda, three completed application forms (two sides each – one completed by “the applicant”, and one by “their referee”) with a blank application form at the end (should you wish to add or substitute “applicants”) and eight role cards (for cutting and laminating).

The facilitator assumes the role of Chair, constituting the workshop participants into the Award Committee. The eight role cards are randomly assigned to participants, to ensure a diversity of perspectives and priorities. The meeting is then convened and conducted according to the agenda, allowing time at the end of the workshop for reflection.

These materials were produced as an output of the Student Engagement Project funded by the Higher Education Academy. Please cite appropriately.

Englandia University Annual Student Award

2010 Award Committee Meeting

Agenda:

1. Terms of Reference (for information)

Englandia University's new Mission Statement embraces and foregrounds student engagement. The Senate decided that that should be the key determining criterion in making this year's award. The 2010 Award Committee is required to consider the applications and make a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor, who will make the award at the ceremony in December.

2. Consideration of Applications (for decision)

This year's applications are attached. Committee members are asked to consider these and agree a recommendation, which will be conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor by the Chair.

3. Motivation for Recommendation (for action)

A succinct statement of motivation in support of the recommendation to be agreed by the Committee.

Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

Englandia University Annual Student Award

2010

Application Form

Please complete Section A of this form before sending it on to your referee, who will complete Section B in confidence. Referees will send the completed form directly to the Registrar, for consideration by the Award Committee. Applicants will not have sight of comments from their referee.

Section A – for completion by the Applicant

Name: Emily Grey

Degree of study: MB ChB

Major/s: Medicine / Surgery Year of study: 3rd

Grade Average: 85% Expected year of Graduation: 2013

Extramural Activities, Leadership Roles and / or Elected Office (use additional sheets if required):

N / A

Motivation for Applying (use additional sheets if required):

My Medicine tutor suggested I apply, since the focus this year was on student engagement. My 85% grade average for this course bears testimony to my complete dedication to my studies, to the exclusion of "living it up" as a student or pursuing distracting pastimes. This course is my life!!!

Signature: E. A Grey Date: 29 October 2010

Please forward form with Section A completed to your referee, asking them to complete Section B in confidence after which they should send the completed form directly to the Registrar.

Section B – for completion in confidence by the Referee.

Please forward completed forms directly to the Registrar. *Please do not share your comments on the applicant with the applicant.* Your comments should reflect honestly on your views of the suitability of the applicant for the award, focusing especially on this year's flagship criterion of **Student Engagement**, as endorsed in the new Mission Statement.

Your name: Dr James Granville Your position: 3rd year Medicine tutor

Your relationship to Applicant: Medicine tutor

Academic ability and performance of Applicant: Outstanding! Unparalleled! Brilliant!

Leadership ability of Applicant: N / A (can't comment)

Your comments on suitability of Applicant for this Award: (use additional sheets if required):

Ms Grey's academic record speaks for itself – her 85% grade average in a course known for its high academic standards is a worthy testament to the effort and application Ms Grey devotes to her studies in single-minded pursuit of her goal of becoming a Doctor. Ms Grey has never submitted an assignment late, missed a lecture, or performed badly on a class test. Her presentation is always neat and professional, and her interactions with her teachers and her peers polite, reserved and respectful, always restricted to study-related matters.

I have never taught as satisfying a student as Ms Grey! The superlative standard of her work amplifies my work satisfaction many-fold!

With the University laudably choosing to foreground student engagement in its Mission Statement and through this year's Student Award, the example set by Ms Grey of single-minded focus and dedication to her studies warrants the recognition and reward that receipt of this Award would provide her.

Delete as relevant:

I strongly support ~~/support / do not support~~ the Applicant's candidacy for this Award.

Signature: J. D. Granville Date: 30 October 2010

Thank you for your assistance. Your input will be dealt with in confidence by the Student Award Committee.

Englandia University Annual Student Award

2010

Application Form

Please complete Section A of this form before sending it on to your referee, who will complete Section B in confidence. Referees will send the completed form directly to the Registrar, for consideration by the Award Committee. Applicants will not have sight of comments from their referee.

Section A – for completion by the Applicant

Name: Sylvia Brown

Degree of study: BA

Major/s: Philosophy Year of study: 2nd

Grade Average: 52% Expected year of Graduation: who knows?!

Extramural Activities, Leadership Roles and / or Elected Office (use additional sheets if required):

Campus rep for Young Trotskyist Anarchist Revolutionaries.

Motivation for Applying (use additional sheets if required):

Recent changes to the HE environment demand of students that we engage if HE is to remain available as a public good rather than a private privilege. Students combine the conceptual capacity, the political will and the unencumbered freedom to effect radical change, and it is our responsibility to act on that!

Signature: S. Brown Date: 25 October 2010

Please forward form with Section A completed to your referee, asking them to complete Section B in confidence after which they should send the completed form directly to the Registrar.

Section B – for completion in confidence by the Referee.

Please forward completed forms directly to the Registrar. *Please do not share your comments on the applicant with the applicant.* Your comments should reflect honestly on your views of the suitability of the applicant for the award, focusing especially on this year's flagship criterion of **Student Engagement**, as endorsed in the new Mission Statement.

Your name: Prof Caroline Edgecombe Your position: HoD, Philosophy

Your relationship to Applicant: Course Convenor for PHI201W

Academic ability and performance of Applicant: Consistently underperforms

Leadership ability of Applicant: Highly adept at leading her classmates astray!

Your comments on suitability of Applicant for this Award: (use additional sheets if required):

Sylvia is a difficult student whose behaviour in lectures is frequently disruptive. She feels under obligation to challenge every point made by the lecturer, once even rearranging the lecture venue in a way she deemed more "egalitarian". She often subverts lectures by taking discussion off on a tangent that her classmates are all too happy to pursue – unrelated to the syllabus, like cuts to benefits, or proposed fee increases.

Sylvia has missed several lectures recently – classmates report that she is spearheading some protest action against proposed fee increases, and has been producing posters and banners for this event. She has left pro forma letters in the pigeonholes of academic staff members asking them to sign and send the letters on the Vice Chancellor, urging him to support their opposition to the fee increases. I know of no academic who was not appalled by this.

In lieu of a term paper for Philosophy of Religion, she handed in a mutilated Bible with a quote from Marx scrawled in some foul red substance on the cover and news cuttings of priests convicted of paedophilia stapled to the pages. She is unlikely to pass this module.

Delete as relevant: strongly

I ~~strongly support~~ / ~~support~~ / do not support the Applicant's candidacy for this Award.

^

Signature: C. J. M. Edgecombe Date: 30 / 10 / 10

Thank you for your assistance. Your input will be dealt with in confidence by the Student Award Committee.

Englandia University Annual Student Award

2010

Application Form

Please complete Section A of this form before sending it on to your referee, who will complete Section B in confidence. Referees will send the completed form directly to the Registrar, for consideration by the Award Committee. Applicants will not have sight of comments from their referee.

Section A – for completion by the Applicant

Name: Jonathan Green

Degree of study: B. Com.

Major/s: Marketing Year of study: Final

Grade Average: 63% Expected year of Graduation: 2011

Extramural Activities, Leadership Roles and / or Elected Office (use additional sheets if required):

Play fullback for 1st XV and umpired for the 1st XI over the summer

Member of AIESEC and Marketing Students Forum.

Was a DJ on Englandia Uni Radio during 2nd year.

Motivation for Applying (use additional sheets if required):

I've always believed in availing myself fully of the opportunities offered by my education. This Award would signal to other students that participating in sports and campus societies is beneficial. Personally, it would also strengthen my CV.

Signature: Jono Green Date: 27 October '10

Please forward form with Section A completed to your referee, asking them to complete Section B in confidence after which they should send the completed form directly to the Registrar.

Section B – for completion in confidence by the Referee.

Please forward completed forms directly to the Registrar. *Please do not share your comments on the applicant with the applicant.* Your comments should reflect honestly on your views of the suitability of the applicant for the award, focusing especially on this year's flagship criterion of **Student Engagement**, as endorsed in the new Mission Statement.

Your name: Dr D. Bowen Your position: Lecturer, Marketing Dept.

Your relationship to Applicant: Final Year Tutor

Academic ability and performance of Applicant: sound & steady

Leadership ability of Applicant: more of a strong dependable follower than a leader

Your comments on suitability of Applicant for this Award: (use additional sheets if required):

During his time at this University, Jonno has immersed himself fully in becoming and being a student, living the student life to the full. He has considered astutely his choices, engaging in those activities in and out of the classroom that he believes will deliver the greatest return on his investment of time, effort and interest, and as such he fits the description of an "engaged student". Jonno is courteous and well-behaved in class, meeting all expectations and producing a consistently sound quality of work. I have no doubt that he will go on to excel in his chosen career.

Delete as relevant:

I ~~strongly support~~ / support / ~~do not support~~ the Applicant's candidacy for this Award.

Signature: D Bowen Date: 30 / 10 / 2010

Thank you for your assistance. Your input will be dealt with in confidence by the Student Award Committee.

You believe strongly that students can only be engaged if they see, understand and are actively involved in "the bigger picture", beyond the narrowly-defined curriculum, embracing both the current socio-political context in which they find themselves, as well as more global, enduring principles of social justice and a better world for all.

Your understanding of "student engagement" prioritises critical thinking and challenging of hegemonic views. You applaud students who are willing to "speak the truth to power", exposing interests and ideology, creating the spaces for contestation and debate.

You are highly aware of the pressures and constraints of time on an overloaded curriculum. You recognise the right to dissent, but believe strongly in following the correct channels so that individual objections do not impact selfishly on the limited resources of others.

You believe very strongly that student engagement is first and foremost the responsibility of the institution, since it holds more power and resources, and that it is incumbent on the institution to demonstrate that it is engaging students, rather than on the students to demonstrate that they are being engaged.

You believe that students should engage first and foremost with their formal curriculum, expending energy and attention on extra-mural or wider issues only once all of their course requirements have been optimally met.

You believe that students should "shop around", choosing what to engage in (whether in the classroom, extra-murally on campus, or in other aspects of their lives such as paid employment or recreation) carefully so as to derive maximum benefit from their time as a student.

You believe that "student engagement" is the preserve of the privileged; that those students who are marginalised are rendered invisible by, and to, the system and are thus structurally excluded from competing fairly for awards such as these.

You believe that the Student Awards offer a wonderful opportunity for the University to market itself, and so you think that they should select the candidate that would "look best" to external media.

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Application Form

Please complete Section A of this form before sending it on to your referee, who will complete Section B in confidence. Referees will send the completed form directly to the Registrar, for consideration by the Award Committee. Applicants will not have sight of comments from their referee.

Section A – for completion by the Applicant

Name: _____

Degree of study: _____

Major/s: _____ Year of study: _____

Grade Average: _____ Expected year of Graduation: _____

Extramural Activities, Leadership Roles and / or Elected Office (use additional sheets if required):

Motivation for Applying (use additional sheets if required):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please forward form with Section A completed to your referee, asking them to complete Section B in confidence after which they should send the completed form directly to the Registrar.

Section B – for completion in confidence by the Referee.

Please forward completed forms directly to the Registrar. *Please do not share your comments on the applicant with the applicant.* Your comments should reflect honestly on your views of the suitability of the applicant for the award, focusing especially on this year’s flagship criterion of **Student Engagement**, as endorsed in the new Mission Statement.

Your name: _____ Your position: _____

Your relationship to Applicant: _____

Academic ability and performance of Applicant: _____

Leadership ability of Applicant: _____

Your comments on suitability of Applicant for this Award: (use additional sheets if required):

Delete as relevant:

I strongly support / support / do not support the Applicant’s candidacy for this Award.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your assistance. Your input will be dealt with in confidence by the Student Award Committee.