AOA Election Process for Students at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

There are two parts to AOA Selection
Part I – Establishing academic eligibility & inviting eligible students to apply
Part II- Application review, scoring and final election of candidates

Part I
Establishing academic eligibility

Background: AOA distinguishes itself from other awards, like Gold Humanism Honor Society, because academic performance is a factor in selection. Previously at Geisel, only the top 25% of students were eligible (based solely on clerkship grades since the pre-clinical period became pass/fail). In 2020-2021, we changed our threshold to the top 40% academically to determine eligibility, and the methods used to make that determination have been broadened and include multiple sources of data:

1) Pre-clinical: Phase I pre-clinical deans will make nominations, solicit nominations from the pre-clinical/Phase I course directors, compile and submit names. Criteria for nomination: Academic excellence as defined by a combination of performance in assessment, didactics and small groups, intellectual curiosity, collegiality, teamwork, academic integrity, and peer assistance and support. Top 40% were given 2 points each.

2) Clinical: Phase II dean will make nominations, solicit nominations from the clerkship directors, compile and submit names. Criteria for nomination: Academic excellence as defined by a combination of performance in assessment, didactics and small groups, intellectual curiosity, collegiality, teamwork, academic integrity, and peer assistance and support. Top 40% were given 3 points each.

3) Peer Nominations: Each student in the graduating class may nominate 1 student whom they admire and respect for their academic excellence (as defined above). Anyone who was nominated gets 1 point

Cross reference above 3 data sets to generate a list of the 40% of the class with highest scores. Final list to be submitted to the chair of the CPSC to identify any validated professionalism issues. Validated issues of professionalism issues negate eligibility.

Notification of Students

1) Invite the eligible students to apply to the Geisel Chapter of AOA (process below)
2) Notify all students in the graduating class that invitations had been sent. If a student thinks that their past academic performance is strong enough that they should have been invited to apply, they may submit an appeal.
Part II

Application process for eligible students
Students fill out a standard application, designed to highlight activities that fulfill AOA national criteria (scholarship & research, community and school service, leadership, professionalism and ethics)

Application Review and Election of Students
All applications are de-identified and reviewed in blinded fashion
All applications are reviewed by two AOA Election Committee members and scored independently using a standard scoring rubric. Final score for each applicant then determined by consensus
Councilor reviews all applications and scoring

Final Election
Final list based on scores from the application
20% of the Geisel graduating class can be elected each year
Final list to be vetted by AOA executive board