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| **SUL ROSS** **Academic Excellence in Coaching Award****Nomination Form** | **F:\Ultimate\official_seal_red.jpg** |
| **Date** | 3/30/2024 |
| **Name of Coach** | See notes below |
| **Title** |  |
| **Justification**1. Please attach two formal letters of support written by either students or faculty.
2. Write a list of reasons this coach deserves the Academic Excellence in Coaching Award in the box below:
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| **As the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for SRSU, I feel obligated to submit a nomination for this award. For the last several years, I have not had a hard time selecting a nominee. However, I am struggling this year, partly because I still feel Coach EJ Smith is the standout. She recruits students who will graduate, she involves faculty in recruitment visits (clearly making the point that academics are important), and she has high standards for her team. If someone isn’t meeting the academic standards, she doesn’t give them a pass just because they play well. The women’s basketball team has a history of being the team with the highest team GPA, and they are continuing this trend under Coach Smith’s leadership. I will also add that Coach Smith is the only head coach who ALWAYS responds to emails I send to the coaches.** **Here are some items to contribute to the discussion:**1. **The baseball team had a team GPA that went over the 3.0 mark for the first time in several years. I think Coach Gallego deserves credit for recruiting stronger students.**
2. **The volleyball and softball teams, both coached by Coach Canaba, continue to have team GPAs that are among the highest team GPAs for the athletics program.**
3. **I know Coach Derickson and his coaching staff continue to check on students to see if they are attending classes and such.**
4. **Overall, I do not have any negative experiences with our coaches when it comes to academic support.**
5. **The team GPAs for the past several fall terms are provided below. This may help.**

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| Baseball | 2.83 | 2.99 | 3.157 |
| Football | 2.39 | 2.43 | 2.002 |
| M-Basketball | 2.8 | 3.09 | 2.75 |
| M-Cross Country | 2.86 | 3.58 | 2.57 |
| M-Soccer | 2.99 | 2.816 | 2.8 |
| M-Tennis | 2.94 | 3.13 | 3.21 |
| Softball | 3.41 | 3.22 | 3.386 |
| Trainers | ? | 3.57 | 3.348 |
| Volleyball | 2.74 | 3.09 | 3.161 |
| W-Basketball | 3.37 | 3.3 | 3.433 |
| W-Cross Country | 2.9 | 2.04 | combined |
| W-Soccer | 3.34 | 2.8 | 3.215 |
| W-Tennis | 1.89 | 2.1 | combined |
|   | **Fall 2021** | **Fall 2022** | **Fall 2023** |

**Suggestion:****I think we should change the three year window for getting the award. Our coaching staff is small in comparison to the size of faculty, and there tends to be higher turnover in athletics programs. Also, in athletics, they know about true competition. If you win only because some of your competitors are prevented from competing with you, a win isn’t really a win.****I also think we should consider adding some sort of form we have all coaches complete to report on their academic support efforts to allow us to better know what they are doing. I know there are many efforts that go on behind the scenes that go unnoticed and appreciated.** **We also may want to revamp the nomination form, especially for SAAC and SGA.** **NOTE: I just noticed there are two due dates on this form—April 9 and March 18.**  |
| **Notes on the Process.** The Faculty Assembly will make two nominations annually. The Student Government Association and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will each make one nomination annually. The deadline for nominations is April 9. The Faculty Assembly will vote for the award winner at the last Faculty Assembly of the spring semester. Full-time coaches and assistant coaches who have not won the award in the last three years and who have been in their current position throughout the current academic year are eligible for this award. **Winners (Past Three Years)**: 2023: EJ Lee-Smith 2022: Rachel Baity 2021: Katie Novak 2020: Antuan Washington 2019: CJ Aragon **Criteria for Selection:**1.     Submitting nomination form on or before March 18, 2024.2.     Two strong letters of support, containing narratives of the coach’s influence on both personal development and academic success.Nominators may wish to consider the following when putting together their materials:a.     Academic performance and retention of student athletesb.    Participation in the tutoring and/or study hall c.     Innovative approaches to helping students succeed academicallyd.    MentoringSubmissions including this form and two letters should be sent by email to Dr. Eric Busby, facultyassembly@sulross.edu President of Faculty Assembly. |
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