



## University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees

### Major Topics

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### I. Introduction

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The University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (“Committee”) is established jointly by the University Senate and the President of the University to identify, evaluate, and recommend to the University Senate candidates for the awarding of honorary degrees. (see also SR 5.4.2.3)

### II. Responsibilities

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The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

- A. Identify candidates for honorary degrees through a broadcast solicitation\*;
- B. Evaluate the qualifications of candidates and compile a list of recommended nominees; and,
- C. Transmit to the University Senate through the Office of the Senate Council Chair a list of those nominees for the award of an honorary degree endorsed by majority vote of the Committee. As prescribed in SR 5.4.2.3.B.2, supporting information shall accompany each nomination forwarded by the committee.

\* Members of the Committee may not nominate candidates for honorary degrees.

### III. Membership

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#### A. Membership Composition

The Committee shall be appointed by the President in his role as the Chair of the University Senate and shall consist of seven (7) appointed members and four (4) ex-officio members. Appointed members and ex officio members are designated as voting or non-voting below.

1. Appointed Members

- (a) Four (4) members shall be selected by the Senate Council from the University Faculty (voting).
- (b) Two (2) members shall be selected by the President from the University Faculty (voting).
- (c) One appointed member of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) shall be selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees (“Board Chair”) to serve as the Board’s Liaison (non-voting) to the Committee.

2. Ex-Officio and other Members

- (a) The Provost, or the Provost’s designee, shall serve as an *ex officio* member on the committee (voting).
- (b) The Dean of the Graduate School shall serve as an *ex officio* member on the committee (voting).
- (c) The Senate Council Chair shall serve as *ex officio* member of the committee (non-voting).
- (d) The President shall designate one other member of the committee from the senior administration (non-voting).

3. Committee Chair

The Dean of the Graduate School shall serve as the Committee Chair, unless unavailable, in which case the President, in consultation with the Senate Council Chair, shall designate the Committee Chair from the faculty members appointed as in Section III.A.1(a)&(b) herein.

4. Quorum

A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for Committee action.

B. Conditions for Appointment

- 1. The six (6) Committee members appointed from the University Faculty shall have staggered three-year appointments. The Board Liaison shall have a one-year appointment, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Board Chair. *Ex Officio* members are standing members of the committee.
- 2. The President and Senate Council Chair shall confer each year before finalizing the faculty membership on the Committee to ensure that the proposed list of faculty appointees is broadly representative of the University faculty.

## IV. Role of the University Senate

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The ninety-four (94) elected faculty representatives in the University Senate comprise the body authorized to vote on the names placed in nomination by the Committee (GR IV.A). The University Senate shall transmit the names of those nominees favorably recommended by the elected faculty representatives in the University Senate, along with supporting documentation, through the President in his role as the Chair of the University Senate to the Board for its approval.

## V. Role of the President

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- A. The President shall transmit to the Board the names of those nominees favorably recommended by the University Senate along with any supporting documentation.
- B. The President retains the right to address either the University Senate (in the role as the Chair of the University Senate) or the Board of Trustees (in the role as President) about the qualifications of a nominee(s) for the award of an honorary degree.

## References and Related Materials

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KRS 164.240

Governing Regulation IV.A, The University Senate

University Senate Rule 5.4.2.3

## Revision History

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9/21/2006, 9/28/2007, 8/1/2009, 10/5/2009, 11/24/2015

For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)