

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

Honorary Doctorate Award – Procedures Update

RES 222333

FAC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommend revisions to the “CSUB Procedures for Processing Honorary Doctorate Nominations” outlined in RES 1213029 (deletions in ~~striketrough~~, additions in **bold underline**) as specified below:

CSUB Procedures for Processing Honorary Doctorate Nomination

Nomination Procedures

Nominations will be due in the Office of the President by ~~September 30~~ **mid-November** of the academic year for consideration for that year’s spring commencement. All members of the CSUB community are encouraged to nominate candidates, including faculty, students, staff, administration members, alumni, members of CSUB advisory groups, and friends of the University. Nominations will consist of letters of nomination from at least two (2) individuals. These letters should detail the nominee’s qualities and contributions that would make him/her a worthy candidate for this high honor.

Processing of Nominations

The Office of the President will be responsible for ensuring that nomination packets are complete. The packets **shall** include at least two nomination letters and any appropriate supporting documentation. At a minimum, it ~~should~~ **shall** include a current curriculum vitae, **resumé or biography with a history of accomplishments and contributions.** ~~“It is particularly important that the nomination materials establish a solid, compelling argument for the award of an honorary doctorate.”~~ This packet, along with the President’s comments, will constitute the nomination packet forwarded to the Chancellor’s Office for consideration by the Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees. The Office of the President ~~will~~ **shall** ~~forward seven (7) copies of the packet to the chair of the Faculty Honorary Degree Committee no later than October 31.~~ **nomination materials to the Faculty Honorary Degree Committee at least one week prior to the committee’s scheduled meeting.**

Faculty Honorary Degree Committee

The Faculty Honorary Degree Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Faculty **or designee**, the Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate **or designee**, the members of the Faculty Honors and Awards Committee, ~~the ASI president or designee~~, a staff member selected by the President, and an alumnus selected by the President. It shall be chaired by the Chair of the Faculty **Honors and Awards Committee**. At the request of any member of the committee, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate may

appoint a substitute for that member of the committee, including the Chair. While the President will ultimately forward no more than two (2) nominees to the Board of Trustees, the committee may choose to forward as many or as few nominees as it deems appropriate to the President for consideration. Nominations, if any, shall be forwarded to the President no later than November 30.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality in the consideration or nominations **shall** be absolute. The Faculty Honorary Degree Committee, as a group, may meet with the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate to solicit advice on nominations, but no other outside groups **shall** be solicited for input.

Types of Degrees and Criteria for Awarding Honorary Degrees

The degrees, policy, and criteria for awarding honorary degrees are established by the California State University Board of Trustees. The Office of the President shall provide all committee members the current policy to review prior to the scheduled meeting.

The following categories of honorary degrees may be conferred by the Board of Trustees:

1. Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)
2. Doctor of Humane Letters (L.D.H.)
3. Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)
4. Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)
5. Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)

The Faculty Honorary Degree Committee, in consultation with the President, will designate a category for nominations which are sent to the President for his/her consideration.

~~“Purposes for Which Honorary Degrees May Be Conferred~~

- ~~A. To recognize excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are embodied the objectives and ideals of the California State University.~~
- ~~B. To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the California State University, collectively, or to its campuses, individually; to the State of California; to the United States; or to humanity at large.~~
- ~~C. To recognize men and women whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of the California State University’s aspirations for its diverse student body.”⁴~~

~~“Criteria for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees~~

- ~~A. Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in all parts of the world. Honorary degrees awarded should represent an appropriate balance between~~

~~local and non-local, and academic and non-academic recipients, and should represent a wide diversity of fields of endeavor.~~

~~B. Nominees for honorary degrees must be distinguished in their respective fields, and the eminence of persons nominated must be widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education, and with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields.~~

~~C. Service or benefaction to the University do not in themselves justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, nothing in these criteria shall preclude nominees who are benefactors of the California State University.⁴~~

CSUB Nominations

~~Nominees should reflect the values of CSUB and have a record of achievement that reflects the highest ideals of higher education. Preference may be given to candidates who have a history of leadership and support for CSUB and/or the people of Kern County.~~

Honorary Degree Nominating Process

- I. The President and Academic Senate Chair will call for confidential nominations for the honorary doctorate.
 - ~~Nominations are due in the Chancellor's office in mid-December.~~
 - ~~Two nominations may be put forward per campus per year.~~
 - The call for nominations will include the CSU's criteria for nominees and the process for forwarding nominations to the Chancellor's office.
 - Nominations are made through an open process for solicitation from divisions.
 - Once the nominations are submitted, the process is confidential.
 - After nominations are submitted, the campus is not obligated to move forward with a nomination.
- II. The Faculty Honorary Degree Committee will vet the nominations and forward candidates to the **Academic** Senate Executive Committee.
- III. The Academic Senate Executive Committee will review candidates and forward comments to the Cabinet.
- IV. The Cabinet will review and forward comments to the President.
- V. After reviewing comments from the Cabinet, the Faculty Honorary Degree Committee and **Academic** Senate Executive Committee, the President will select no more than two nominations to be forwarded to the Chancellor, as specified in the CSU Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees, approved by the Board of Trustees
- VI. **If nominations are made outside of the normal timeframe, the President will send them through the same process as proscribed above to ensure faculty input.**

~~Letter from Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Gary W. Reichard to CSU Presidents, November 9, 2007.~~

RATIONALE: The guidelines for awarding an Honorary Doctorate at a CSU campus are established and approved by the CSU Board of Trustees. CSUB must follow these guidelines and cannot create independent criteria. The procedures for composing a selection committee for honorary degrees submitted by our campus is within the purview of the Academic Senate. The procedures were last updated in 2012-13. This resolution removes items that are determined by the Trustees, clarifies a timeline and the committee membership.

Approved by Academic Senate May 4, 2023

Sent to the President May 17, 2023

Approved by the President May 30, 2023

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