

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1259

Subject: Honorary Degree Policy Proposal

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: 4/1/24

Senate Action

MOTION: Adopt the changes to the university regulations outlined below.

VOTE: 21 Aye, 1 Nay – Motion Passes

Response requested:

_____ Approval for placement in University Catalog, Undergraduate and Graduate

X Approval for placement in University Regulations

_____ Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual

_____ None (sent as information item)

_____ Other action requested/comments:

Dawit Senbet

4/5/24

Faculty Senate Chair

Date

* * * * *

Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

_____ Reviewed by VPAA/Provost. Check _____ if comments are attached.

_____ Reviewed by General Counsel. Check _____ if comments are attached.

Presidential action:

_____ Approve _____ Reject _____ Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

President/Designated Administrative Officer

Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): _____

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER HALL 2004, BOX 75.

Faculty.Senate@unco.edu

FACULTY SENATE POLICY PROPOSAL/MOTION

Subject: Honorary Degree Policy Proposal

Originator/Date: Codification 03/27/28

Placement(s): 3-8-104 of the University Regulations

Reviewed by Codification on 03/27/28 and sent to Faculty Senate

Motion: Adopt the changes to university regulations outlined below.

Purpose/ Rationale: To clarify the procedures of conferring an Honorary degree, with the addition of updates and expanded selection of honorary degrees that can be awarded.

Proposed Language:

From University Regulations

3-8-104 Criteria and Procedures for Selection and Awarding Honorary and Posthumous Degrees.

3-8-104(1) Honorary Degrees.

(a) **Purpose of this Regulation.** This regulation describes the process by which the University may award honorary degrees to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the University and/or ~~have attained~~ extraordinary achievements of extraordinary and lasting distinction.

(b) **Limitations.** UNC employees are not eligible for an the honorary degree while they are employed by the University. An H honorary degree shall not be conferred on elected state and local officials while they hold office. ~~The Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Humane Letters are the only two honorary degrees that may be conferred.~~ The following are the titles of honorary degrees that may be conferred:

Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.), for significant contributions to theatre, film, music, or visual arts;

Doctor of Human Services (D.H.S.), for significant contributions in human services, social work, public health, community engagement, nonprofits, counseling, or education;

Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), for significant contributions to society through humanitarian or philanthropic achievements;

Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), for significant contributions to law or politics;

Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), for significant contributions to literature, language, or writing;

Doctor of Public Service (D.P.S.), for significant contributions to government or business;

Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), for significant contributions to science, technology, or medicine.

Under no circumstances shall ~~will~~ earned degrees awarded by UNC be conferred as honorary degrees.

(c) **Criteria.** Nominees ~~must shall~~ be evaluated ~~with by using~~ the following criteria- ~~at each step of the process 3-8-104(1)(e), below:~~

(i) Nominees ~~must shall~~ have made significant contributions to the University over an extended period ~~of time,~~ or shall have demonstrated outstanding personal or professional accomplishments, that complement the University's ~~role and~~ mission.

~~(ii) Nominees must be individuals upon whom conferral of an honorary degree would bring honor to the University.~~

~~(iii)~~ (ii) Nominees ~~must shall~~ exhibit exemplary character and integrity.

(d) **Nominations.**

(i) Procedure. ~~A n~~ Nominations may be made in writing at any time by any UNC employee, ~~and must~~ A nomination shall be submitted to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) at least one semester prior to the semester of ~~conferral. the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred.~~

(ii) Materials. ~~A n~~ Nomination ~~must shall~~ include a letter that describes how the nominee meets the honorary degree criteria, ~~including the type of degree to be awarded. and the preferred semester in which the degree would be conferred.~~

~~(iii)~~ Termination of Process. If the CAO, FSEC, or the President does not recommend approval of a nominee, the nomination process for that nominee ends.

(e) **Review Process.** All matters ~~conversations and materials~~ relating to nominee reviews and recommendations are confidential, ~~and shall be maintained in confidence except for final approval by the Board of Trustees.~~

(i) Evaluation Materials. The evaluation materials for each nominee shall include the letter of nomination and the ~~Nominee~~ Honorary Degree Candidate Evaluation Form (~~see attached~~) completed by the reviewers at each step in the review process. These materials ~~will shall~~ be forwarded throughout the process. ~~accompany the nominee's nomination throughout the process.~~

(ii) Chief Academic Officer Review. ~~Nominations are~~ A nomination is reviewed first by the ~~Chief Academic Officer~~ CAO, who shall make a recommendation on each the nominee(s) including a determination of the type of degree to be conferred. If the CAO recommends approval of the nomination, such recommendation ~~and forward their recommendation~~ and the evaluation materials shall be ~~to~~ forwarded to the ~~Faculty Senate Executive Committee for consideration.~~ FSEC for consideration.

(iii) Faculty Senate Executive Committee Review. ~~Nominations are reviewed second by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.~~ If the CAO recommends approval of the nominee, the nomination is then reviewed by the FSEC in executive session. If the FSEC recommends the nomination for approval, such recommendation and evaluation materials shall be forwarded to the President for consideration. ~~and shall make a recommendation on the nominee(s) and forward its recommendation and the evaluation materials to the President for consideration.~~

(iv) President's Review. ~~Nominations are reviewed third by~~ If the FSEC recommends approval of the nomination, the nomination is then reviewed by the President. The President ~~who~~ shall review the evaluation materials, and ~~decide whether to recommend approval of the nominee(s) to the Board of Trustees.~~ If ~~if~~ the President determines the nominee fulfills the honorary degree criteria in 3-8-104(c), the President shall first contact the nominee(s) to ~~inquire if they are interested in receiving an honorary degree.~~ ~~inform them that the President is recommending them to the Board for conferral of an honorary degree in order to determine if the nominee(s) are desirous of being recommended.~~ If ~~they wish to be recognized,~~ ~~so,~~ the President ~~will~~ shall forward the evaluation materials to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation that the Board approve the nomination, (s) including a recommendation on the type of degree(s) to be conferred.

(v) Board of Trustees Review. The Board of Trustees shall review the evaluation materials. ~~They and~~ shall discuss in executive session whether the nominee meets the honorary degree criteria, ~~and whether to approve in public session the President's recommendation.~~ If so, a motion to approve the award of an honorary degree, and the date of the conferral, shall be made in public session. The honorary degree shall be conferred at a commencement or at a special convocation following approval by the Board of Trustees.

(f) **Announcement of Board Approval of Nominee.** If the nominee is approved by the Board of Trustees, the President shall make the public announcement of the Board's approval. ~~The honorary degree shall be conferred at a commencement or at a special convocation following approval by the Board of Trustees.~~

(g) **Rescission of Approval or Conferral of Honorary Degree.** The Board of Trustees has the authority to rescind its approval ~~or~~ of the conferral of an honorary degree. ~~Such rescission may~~

occur either before or after the degree is conferred if, in ~~the~~ ~~its~~ judgment of the BOT, the nominee or degree recipient has engaged in conduct that constitutes a significant departure from generally recognized standards of behavior that: ~~(i) May~~ may be injurious to the reputation of the University, and/or, ~~(ii) Is~~ is inconsistent with the University's mission and/or values.

Proposed Policy Language Recommendations (Clean copy):

3-8-104 Criteria and Procedures for Selection and Awarding Honorary and Posthumous Degrees.

3-8-104(1) Honorary Degrees.

(a) Purpose of this Regulation. This regulation describes the process by which the University may award honorary degrees to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the University and/or extraordinary achievements of lasting distinction.

(b) Limitations. UNC employees are not eligible for an honorary degree while they are employed by the University. An honorary degree shall not be conferred on elected state and local officials while they hold office. The following are the titles of honorary degrees that may be conferred:

Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.), for significant contributions to theatre, film, music, or visual arts;

Doctor of Human Services (D.H.S.), for significant contributions in human services, social work, public health, community engagement, nonprofits, counseling, or education;

Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), for significant contributions to society through humanitarian or philanthropic achievements;

Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), for significant contributions to law or politics;

Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), for significant contributions to literature, language, or writing;

Doctor of Public Service (D.P.S.), for significant contributions to government or business;

Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), for significant contributions to science, technology, or medicine.

Under no circumstances shall earned degrees awarded by UNC be conferred as honorary degrees.

(c) Criteria. Nominees shall be evaluated with the following criteria at each step of the process 3-8-104(1)(e), below:

(i) Nominees shall have made significant contributions to the University over an extended period, or shall have demonstrated outstanding personal or professional accomplishments, that complement the University's mission.

(ii) Nominees shall exhibit exemplary character and integrity.

(d) Nominations.

(i) Procedure. A nomination may be made in writing at any time by any UNC employee. A nomination shall be submitted to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) at least one semester prior to the semester of conferral.

(ii) Materials. A nomination shall include a letter that describes how the nominee meets the honorary degree criteria, including the type of degree to be awarded.

(iii) Termination of Process. If the CAO, FSEC, or the President does not recommend approval of a nominee, the nomination process for that nominee ends.

(e) Review Process. All conversations and materials relating to nominee reviews and recommendations are confidential.

(i) Evaluation Materials. The evaluation materials for each nominee shall include the letter of nomination and the Honorary Degree Candidate Evaluation Form completed by the reviewers at each step in the review process. These materials shall be forwarded throughout the process.

(ii) Chief Academic Officer Review. A nomination is reviewed first by the CAO, who shall make a recommendation on each nominee including a determination of the type of degree to be conferred. If the CAO recommends approval of the nomination, such recommendation and the evaluation materials shall be forwarded to the FSEC for consideration.

(iii) Faculty Senate Executive Committee Review. If the CAO recommends approval of the nominee, the nomination is then reviewed by the FSEC in executive session. If the FSEC recommends the nomination for approval, such recommendation and evaluation materials shall be forwarded to the President for consideration.

(iv) President's Review. If the FSEC recommends approval of the nomination, the nomination is then reviewed by the President. The President shall review the evaluation materials, and if the President determines the nominee fulfills the honorary degree criteria in 3-8-104(c), the President shall first contact the nominee to inquire if they are interested in receiving an honorary degree. If they wish to be so recognized, the President shall forward the evaluation materials to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation that the Board approve the nomination.

(v) **Board of Trustees Review.** The Board of Trustees shall review the evaluation materials. They shall discuss in executive session whether the nominee meets the honorary degree criteria. If so, a motion to approve the award of an honorary degree, and the date of the conferral, shall be made in public session. The honorary degree shall be conferred at a commencement or at a special convocation following approval by the Board of Trustees.

(f) Announcement of Board Approval of Nominee. If the nominee is approved by the Board of Trustees, the President shall make the public announcement of the Board's approval.

(g) Rescission of Approval or Conferral of Honorary Degree. The Board of Trustees has the authority to rescind its approval or conferral of an honorary degree. Such rescission may occur either before or after the degree is conferred if, in the judgment of the BOT, the nominee or degree recipient has engaged in conduct that constitutes a significant departure from generally recognized standards of behavior that may be injurious to the reputation of the University, and/or is inconsistent with the University's mission or values.