

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1261

Subject: Posthumous Degree Policy

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: 11/20/23

Senate Action

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

VOTE: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

Subject: Posthumous Degree Policy

Originator/Date: APC, from the office of the provost.

Placement(s): University Regulations

APC to discussed initial draft 10/23/2023, sent to Codification 11/1/2023

APC approved on 11/6/2023 and sent to Senate

Purpose/Rationale: The proposed changes adds the president to the list of people who can initiate the awarding of a degree (presidential prerogative). Further, the Dean of Students is removed from that list, since this is an academic degree and since they are involved in the decision about whether to approve a request. For the changes in clause (c), the Registrar withdraws a student who dies from all classes whether or not a degree is awarded, so this is not needed. Finally, since the Dean of Students is involved in the process, it makes sense to include them in the list of people notified when the process is completed.

Current language/practice: The policy currently resides both in university regulations and the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. We suggest referring to the catalog language in regs to avoid letting the policies get out of sync.

Proposed Language:

Catalogs:

Posthumous Degrees

Students who die during their academic programs may be awarded posthumous degrees.

1. The request to award a posthumous degree may be initiated by the decedent's family, the student's major department/school/program area, or /college, or the President, as well as by the Dean of Students. If initiated by the University,
2. The CAO, in consultation with the Dean of Students, shall determine whether the student had made reasonable progress toward degree completion, and did not have a record of significant disciplinary incident(s).
3. If, the conditions based on the consultation in (2), a decision is made to award a posthumous degree, the Dean of Students shall determine support for the decedent's family. Should the family indicate support, the CAO shall communicate the decision to the Registrar, who shall are met, the Registrar withdraw the student from all unfinished courses the student was enrolled in at the time of death (if applicable), order the appropriate diploma and arrange for the decedent to be listed in the first available commencement program.
4. The Registrar shall send notice of the posthumous degree award to the President, the CAO, the Dean of Students, and the decedent's major department/school/program area and college.
5. The President shall write a letter to the decedent's family announcing the posthumous degree and the date of the commencement ceremony at which the degree shall be awarded.

University Regulations:

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

3-8-104(2) Posthumous. Students who die during their academic programs may be awarded posthumous degrees. The process shall follow the steps described in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs.

- (a) The request to award a posthumous degree may be initiated by the decedent's family, the major department/school/program area, or college, as well as by the Dean of Students. The CAO, in consultation with the Dean of Students, shall determine whether the student had made reasonable progress toward degree completion and did not have a significant disciplinary incident.
- (b) If the conditions in (b) are met, the Registrar withdraw the student from all unfinished courses the student was enrolled in at the time of death (if applicable), order the appropriate diploma, and arrange for the decedent to be listed in the first available commencement program.
- (c) The Registrar shall send notice of the posthumous degree award to the President, the CAO, and the decedent's major department/school/program area and college.
- (d) The President shall write a letter to the decedent's family announcing the posthumous degree and the date of the commencement ceremony at which the degree shall be awarded.

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