

Agenda
Board of Regents
Ad Hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees and
Meritorious Service Awards
Thursday, May 21, 2009; 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

VIDEOCONFERENCE SITES:
Anchorage: 205 Bragaw Office Building, 1815 Bragaw
Fairbanks: 202H Butrovich Building, UAF Campus
Audio: 1-800-893-8850, Pin 4054501

Committee Members:

Fuller Cowell, Committee Chair
Erik Drygas
Kenneth J. Fisher

Kirk Wickersham
Cynthia Henry, Board Chair

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION

"The Ad Hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards adopts the agenda as presented.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Adoption of Agenda**
- III. Discussion Regarding Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards**
- IV. Future Agenda Items**
- V. Adjourn**

This motion is effective May 21, 2009."

III. Discussion Regarding Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards

Committee members will review the policy and regulation regarding honorary degrees and meritorious service awards and review processes for the selection of these awards with campus representatives.

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Adjourn

REGENTS' POLICY
PART X – ACADEMIC POLICY
Chapter 10.03 - Degree, Certificate and Award Approval

P10.03.010. Degree and Certificate Candidate and Recipient Approval.

- A. Candidates for degrees and certificates approved by the board will be recommended by the faculties and academic deans, certified by the registrars as having met all applicable requirements for the degree or certificate, and endorsed by the respective chancellor and by the president. All degrees and certificates are conferred by the board.
- B. The official lists of degree and certificate recipients will be established by the chancellors immediately after the official closing date of each term. The combined lists for the spring and preceding fall and summer terms will be transmitted by the president to the board after the spring session. This official list of degree and certificate recipients will be presented to the board for their approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

(02-16-96)

P10.03.020. Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards Approval and Criteria.

- A. The board will approve individuals to receive honorary degrees and meritorious service awards and confer these degrees and awards.
- B. The principal criterion for individuals to receive an honorary degree from the university will be evidence of a significant and lasting contribution to the university, the State of Alaska, or to the individual's discipline or profession.
- C. The principal criterion for individuals to receive a meritorious service award from the university will be outstanding service by individuals within the state to a local campus, extension service, or community.

(02-16-96)

UNIVERSITY REGULATION
PART X – ACADEMIC POLICY
Chapter 10.03 - Degree, Certificate and Award Approval

R10.03.020. Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Awards Approval and Criteria.

A. Awards

Honorary degrees and meritorious service awards may be conferred as university campus awards or University of Alaska awards upon approval of the Board of Regents.

B. Restrictions

No person who is employed by the University of Alaska, is a member of the Board of Regents, or is an elected governmental official in and from the State of Alaska, may be granted an honorary degree until after he or she has ceased to hold that position.

B C. Procedures for Nomination, Approval and Conferment

Nominations for honorary degree or meritorious service award candidates may be made by members of the Board of Regents, campus advisory councils, members of the university community, or citizens of the state **TO THE APPROPRIATE CHANCELLOR FOR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS DEGREES AND AWARDS AND TO THE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA DEGREES AND AWARDS. THE CHANCELLOR OR PRESIDENT WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF SUCH NOMINATIONS TO THE NOMINATOR.**

1. University Campus Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards

Nominations for University campus honorary degrees and meritorious service awards must be submitted to the appropriate Chancellor for review by a faculty committee. In order to afford members of the Board of Regents an opportunity to attend committee meetings if they wish, Chancellors will notify the ~~Regents Affairs Officer~~ **BOARD OF REGENTS' OFFICE** of committee meeting schedules **TO BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. THE NOMINATOR MAY REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO SPEAK TO THE NOMINATION.**

The committee's recommendations will be forwarded through the Chancellor and the President, for their consideration and recommendation, to the Board of Regents. Nominations must be accompanied by substantive documentation which focuses on how the nominees meet the Regents' Policy criteria for a degree or award.

The Board of Regents will act upon nominations for award at spring commencement at the first meeting of the Board in the preceding fall semester.

Under exceptional circumstances, the Board will consider nominations submitted at other times.

Honorary degrees and meritorious service awards will not be awarded in absentia **BUT MAY BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY IF THE BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVED THE RECIPIENT BEFORE THE AWARD WAS ABLE TO BE CONFERRED.** While commencement will be the usual ceremony at which awards are to be conferred, other occasions may be substituted upon approval by the Board of Regents.

In order to accommodate arrangements necessary to invite commencement speakers upon whom an honorary degree is to be conferred, or awardees who cannot immediately attend a commencement, nominations may be approved up to four years prior to the actual award. **IF THE NOMINEE HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE AWARD BY THAT TIME, THEIR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF APPROVED NOMINEES.**

Ordinarily a meritorious service award will be conferred within the academic year in which it is approved. A Chancellor may request from the **BOARD, Regents** postponement to the following year.

Announcement of honorary degree and meritorious service award recipients prior to the award ceremony will be at a time determined by the appropriate Chancellor.

2. University of Alaska Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards

Nominations for award by the University of Alaska must be presented to the President, who will forward them with appropriate substantive documentation to the Board of Regents.

€ D.. Honorary Degrees

Nominations will include a brief statement of the following information on each candidate:

1. name and pertinent personal information;
2. education (degrees received);
3. contributions to the University, and/or the state, or the nominee's discipline or profession; and
4. rationale for recommendation for honorary degree.
5. **PERSON OR PERSONS MAKING THE NOMINATION**
6. **SUPPORTING LETTERS**

The type of honorary degree to be awarded should be one of the following:

Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)	for persons distinguished in general service to the state, to learning, and to humankind.
<u>Doctor of Education</u>	<u>for persons who have distinguished themselves in the field of education.</u>
<u>Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)</u>	<u>for persons who have distinguished themselves in the fine arts, including artists and musicians.</u>
Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)	for persons distinguished in scholarly work of a somewhat restricted nature; usually conferred upon scholars in particular disciplines.
Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)	for persons who have made distinguished contribution and performed services in the sciences.
Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)	for persons who have distinguished themselves in the humanities.

D. Meritorious Service Awards

Nominations will include a brief statement of the following information on each candidate:

1. name and pertinent personal information;
2. outstanding service to a local campus, extension service, or community; and
3. rationale for recommendation for meritorious service award.
- 4. PERSON OR PERSONS MAKING THE NOMINATION**
- 5. SUPPORTING LETTERS**

(XX-XX-XX)

To: Board of Regents, University of Alaska

A proposal

In some university systems, such as France, Germany and Japan, they have a variety of doctoral degrees, ranging from those who complete a four, or more year program of studies, to those who are honored by an "honorary doctorate," because of social or political contributions, and finally those who have, through a lifetime of contributions, have demonstrated their ability, comprehension, and achievements that they too are "doctors," that is, academics of the highest order.

I once had an instructor of French at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. I asked him if he was going on to earn a doctorate in French back in his home country. He said that he could not do that. He had a "licentiate" in French, (comparable to our Master's or teaching degree), that is, qualified to teach the language. But that to be a "Doctor of French," he would have to write and publish extensively for that recognition. In Japan, they often promote the highest, or most advanced teacher in a department to be a "Dean." If after years of proven research, publication, teaching and administration, they may be awarded a degree as "Doctor," in their area.

In both of these countries they have a "doctorate," based on a lifetime of contributions.

There are, in Alaska, individuals who have made a lifetime of contribution to some academic area, or across many academic disciplines. Perhaps, they may not even have a high school diploma, a bachelor's or master's degree, but their works are truly significant and important.

I think it would be good if the Board of Regents established another type of doctoral degree - not based on four years of study, research, publication and course requirements, nor just on public service, or political interests, but one that said that the recipient, is awarded a doctoral degree because of lifetime accomplishments in his or her area of expertise. It would not be an "honorary degree," but an "earned degree." It would be a degree earned through a lifetime of work in Alaska.

I recommend that the Board of Regents consider a new degree, one that says a person, regardless of formal education, regardless of political interest or community service, but simply based on accomplishments, achievements and academic contributions, in one or more disciplines, be awarded an earned "Doctorate" within a general area of expertise. The degree would not be "honorary," but "earned."

Wallace M. Olson, Professor Anthropology (Emeritus) University of Alaska Southeast