

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR HONORARY DEGREES

GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

A. PREAMBLE

An honorary degree is the highest honour bestowed within the power of the University, and recognizes the significant contributions of individuals to local, national and international communities.

In conferring honorary degrees

2.3. Doctor of Science ~~h~~onoris Causa

Awarded for significant and extraordinary contributions to academic life, knowledge or society in the areas of pure and applied science, engineering and/or social science.

2.4 Doctor of Commerce ~~h~~onoris Causa

Awarded for significant and extraordinary contributions to academic life, knowledge or society in the areas of commerce, economics, industry, and/or business

3. Criteria

Candidates must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Eminence in a field of activity or profession

Exceptional record of distinction and achievement in an academic field, in the creative or performing arts, or in a profession or discipline.

Outstanding public or community service

Distinguished service to the community, locally, nationally, or internationally, or exceptional accomplishments having contributed to Canadian culture and society.

Significant connection or benefaction to the University

Extraordinary contribution to the development of the University or a magnanimous contribution to the University, creatively, materially, or financially.

If a candidate meets one or more of the above criteria, other relevant factors include:

- x A candidate for an honorary degree must have demonstrated personal and ~~profes~~

- x Nominations for honorary degrees shall be submitted to the University Secretary by the deadline date specified in the call for nominations.
- x Nominations may be made by any member or constituent group from the University community, or from external nominators. Nominations are normally not accepted from family members of the nominee. Self-nominations will not be accepted for consideration.
- x Nominations submitted outside the time frame specified in the annual call for nominations will be reviewed by the Committee at its next regular meeting.
- x Nominations must be complete in accordance with section 5 of these guidelines. Incomplete submissions will be returned to nominators and may be resubmitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

5. Documentation

The following items shall be included with the nomination:

5.1 Nomination Form

The nomination form may be accessed from the Board of Governors website at:

<https://www.smu.ca/webfiles/HonoraryDegreeNominationForm.pdf>

Each nominator must complete and sign a confidential Nomination Form containing a statement explaining why the University should award a degree to the nominee based on the criteria set out above.

5.2 Resume or Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)

Each nomination should be accompanied by the nominee's resume. The resume or C.V. is important for nominations for the honorary degree, and should include the full list of positions held, awards received, and other appropriate information (e.g. publications if the nomination is made in recognition of contributions to an academic discipline).

Where a resume or C.V. is not available, a comprehensive biography and/or other sources of information which outline the candidate's achievements should be included with the nomination.

5.3 Letters of support

A minimum of two, and no more than three letters of support must be submitted from individuals knowledgeable about the nominee.

6. Evidence of institutional support

Prior to sending a recommendation forward to Senate, via the University Secretary the Joint Committee will consult with the Office of the Dean from the appropriate faculty to discuss endorsement of the nomination. A letter of support and/or endorsement from a Dean and/or Dean's Office should accompany the Joint Committee's recommendation to Senate.

7. Confidentiality

It is extremely important that all involved in the submission of nominations recognize that this is a confidential process. In particular, nominees should not be informed that they are under consideration.

The only names ever to be made public are those who are offered the award by the President of the University and who accept the award.

The President will determine at what point a name is made public.

8. Selection

The Committee meets at least once in each of the fall and winter semesters to consider nominations. When the Committee deems it necessary to obtain additional information about a candidate, it may

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