

SENATE HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

- Purpose: To provide a vehicle for granting honorary degrees according to the current university standards and policies.
- Membership: Faculty (five, each from a different college)
Dean of the Graduate School (one)
Vice President for Academic Affairs or a designee (one)
- Terms: Faculty - five years with one elected each year
Dean of Graduate School - concurrent with office
Vice President for Academic Affairs or designee - concurrent with office
- Selection: Faculty - one faculty member elected every year by the University Senate in April, assuming responsibilities in May
Dean of Graduate School - ex-officio
Vice President for Academic Affairs or a designee - ex-officio
- Functions and Responsibilities: Acting of its own volition, upon the request of the Senate and/or others, the committee shall assume the following responsibilities:
1. Solicit nominations for honorary degrees.
 2. Establish a procedure for reviewing nominations and making a recommendation.
 3. Consider nominations and submit a recommendation to the University Senate.
 4. Review current university policies, standards, and procedures for granting an honorary degree and submit recommendations to the Senate.
- Standards: Standards for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees:
It is recommended that the following criteria be used in considering persons for an honorary degree:
1. Achievement of distinction in scholarship, or in comparable professional or creative achievement.
 2. Recognized and outstanding service to the nation, to the state, or to the University of North Dakota.
 3. Attendance at or graduation from the University of North Dakota, except as the individual is outstanding with reference to criteria 1 & 2.
 4. Non-membership on the faculty of University of North Dakota.
 5. Scholarship specialization in an area in which the University normally grants an earned degree.
- Procedures: Procedures for Awarding Honorary Degrees:
It is recommended that the procedures used for awarding an honorary degree include the following:
1. Nominations may be made by any member of the University Council. (The deadline for submitting nominations

- for the honorary degrees shall be three months before the date on which the degree is to be awarded.
2. Nominations must be accompanied by a factual dossier providing evidence that the nominee meets the criteria set forth in part 1 above. Such factual compilation should include the following, in the order listed:
 - a. A brief biography
 - b. A list of scholarly writings, research and publications
 - c. Description of public service and achievements
 - d. List of offices and positions held
 - e. Other factual justifications for consideration
 3. The nominee's scholarship will be evaluated by the departmental faculty in the area of the nominee's specialization, such evaluation to be a part of the dossier presented to the Committee for Honorary Degrees.
 4. A nominee will not be informed that he is being considered until he has been finally approved.
 5. The titles of honorary degrees will be distinct from those of earned degrees.
 6. No honorary bachelor's or master's degrees will be awarded.
 7. Nominations approved by the Committee for Honorary Degrees will be presented by its chairman to the University Senate, and if approved by the Senate, and if approved by the Senate, presented by the President to the State Board of Higher Education for final approval only if the nomination has been made at a previous meeting of the Senate.
 8. No name once submitted to the Senate may again be presented to the Senate within the same year.
 9. Notification to the nominee of the approval of the State Board of Higher Education will be made by the President of the University.

Report to Senate: Prepare an annual report which addresses each function and responsibility and submit it to the Senate secretary two weeks before the November Senate meeting.

Source of
Information: University Council Minutes - January 19, 1959
University Senate Minutes - April 18, 1963
University Senate Minutes - February 2, 1967
University Senate Minutes - April 1, 1971
University Senate Minutes - March 5, 1981
University Senate Minutes - March 4, 1999
University Senate Minutes - November 7, 2013