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Office of the President
March 5, 2002

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that approval be granted to awarding the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters to Sister Rosemary Howarth, the Doctor of Humanities to Sanford T. Roach, and the Doctor of Science to Wimberly C. Royster.

Background: The Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the Graduate Faculty and the University Senate that honorary degrees be awarded to Sister Rosemary Howarth, Sanford T. Roach, and Wimberly C. Royster. These three bodies have expressed their approval of the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the three recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Sister Rosemary Howarth
2002 Honorary Degree Nominee

Sister Rosemary Howarth, the general superior of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, has served as the international leader of the School Sisters since 1998. In this capacity she oversees 4,000 sisters working in 33 countries. She provides leadership to the International Leadership Team of the Congregation and carries out all the legal and canonical duties. She is also the Congregational representative to the Internal Union of Superiors General and coordinates and assists in conducting all the international meetings of the School Sisters and provides opportunities for spiritual development for the entire membership.

Sister Rosemary's work has a direct impact on the University of Kentucky through her involvement with the "Nun Study," in which 2,500 sisters have undergone extensive examination and review, as well as a commitment at their death to donate their brains to the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. The sisters' involvement in this study has resulted in significant advances and discoveries in the area of Alzheimer's disease as well as other neurological problems. The Nun Study has received national and international acclaim and has brought great credit to the University of Kentucky and its research programs.

Prior to becoming the General Superior of the Congregation, Sister Rosemary served from 1995-1998 as a pastoral minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe Community in Ontario, Canada. In this program, she continued the work she began in 1986 with the Hispanic population. From 1986-1993, she directed the parish work in Villa El Salvador, Peru where she was involved, among other duties, in developing youth leadership programs. In summary, Sister Rosemary has been heavily involved throughout her time with the School Sisters of Notre Dame with the poorest of the poor in an effort to bring physical and spiritual relief to their lives.

On the basis of her leadership of a humanitarian organization that serves the poor across the world, as well as her efforts to provide understanding of one of the most debilitating diseases of the modern world, Sister Rosemary Howarth is recommended as a recipient of the 2002 Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Sanford T. Roach **2002 Honorary Degree Nominee**

Sanford T. Roach has made major contributions to society in the areas of education, athletics, and public service. He began his career in education as a teacher and coach at the Kentucky House of Reform, later known as Kentucky Village. After later teaching at his alma mater, Bate High School in Danville, he became a teacher and assistant basketball coach at the original Dunbar High School in Lexington where he taught science, and coached basketball for 24 years. He later served as assistant principal and principal at the Lexington Junior High School.

The salutatorian of his high school class, he received his bachelor's degree from Kentucky State College and a master's degree from the University of Kentucky (UK), where he was one of the earliest African American students to attend this institution.

Mr. Roach is well known in the state for his coaching abilities. At Dunbar he amassed a record of 512 wins to 142 losses for a lifetime coaching record of 610 wins and 166 losses. His success as a coach contributed to his being appointed in 1974 by President Otis Singletary to the UK Athletic Association Board of Directors, the first African American to hold this position.

Mr. Roach is also a leader in the community and in his church. A long-time member of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, he is a church steward, former trustee, class leader, and choir member. The Lexington Human Rights Commission, Lexington Transit Board, Lexington Kiwanis Club, Kentucky State University Alumni Association, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are just a few of the many social, civic, and community service programs with which he has been involved.

His work with children has benefited many young people in the community. He has served on the board of the Boy Scouts of America and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. His commitment to inspiring young people through sports has been evident as he directed basketball and cheerleading clinics, spending many hours with children from low-income backgrounds. He has been an inspiration to Lexington's youth.

Mr. Roach's list of honors and awards is a long one. He has been awarded an honorary degree from Kentucky State University, inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Dawahare's Hall of Fame, and the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, to list a few. The new Paul Laurence Dunbar High School gymnasium has been dedicated the S. T. Roach Sports Center, where the S. T. Roach Basketball Classic occurs annually.

For his distinguished record of service to the community, to athletics, and to the University of Kentucky, Sanford T. Roach is recommended as a recipient of the 2002 Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Wimberly C. Royster
2002 Honorary Degree Nominee

From the time of his arrival at the University of Kentucky (UK) as a graduate student in 1946 to his retirement as the first vice president for Research and Graduate Studies, Wimberly C. Royster has been one of the university's foremost leaders for half a century.

After a brief sojourn at Auburn University, Dr Royster returned to UK in 1956 to begin an uninterrupted climb to the rank of professor in 1962. His administrative roles, which have been many, began with the position of chair of mathematics in 1963, then director of the School of Mathematical Sciences from 1967 to 1969, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1969-1972, followed by dean of the Graduate School from 1972, coordinator from 1972-1982, and vice chancellor for research from 1982-1988. He was appointed the university's first vice president for Research and Graduate Studies in 1988.

Dr. Royster's accomplishments remain well known and highly visible within the university today. Under his leadership, the mathematics program was awarded a major Basic Science National Science Foundation (NSF) development Grant in 1968 that provided the impetus for developing one of the institution's most distinguished research and graduate education programs. He oversaw a period of rapid development of doctoral education at UK and the establishment of its first multidisciplinary research and graduate education centers.

At the national level, Dr. Royster served as president of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, president of the Council of Graduate Schools in the U.S. and Canada, and was a member of numerous national boards. Following his retirement, he continued for two years as special assistant to the president in order to oversee the final stages of the development of the Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center Building. Since retirement, he has played a critical role in the acquisition of grants and contracts from NSF and other entities through his work with the Kentucky Center for Science and Technology. These grants and contracts have supported mathematics and science education in public schools in the Commonwealth, as well as in adjoining Appalachian states. He has also continued as the director of Kentucky's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) projects in research development for UK and other universities within the state.

In view of his personal attributes and his professional accomplishments, his service to the university, the Commonwealth and the nation, Dr. Wimberly C. Royster is recommended as the recipient of the 2002 Honorary Doctor of Science degree.