

PR 7

Office of the President
March 6, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

CONDITIONS OF MERIT FOR HONORARY DEGREES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 164.240 and Governing Regulation IV.A, the elected Faculty Senators approved a statement of policy on the conditions of merit for the awarding of honorary degrees and are recommending Board approval of the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees.

The Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees is attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other Withdrawn

5.4.2.4 Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees

A. Principles

In awarding Honorary Degrees, the University accomplishes several purposes: It pays tribute to those whose life and work exemplify professional, intellectual, or artistic achievement. It recognizes and appreciates those who have made significant contributions to society, the state, and the University. It highlights the diverse ways in which such contributions can be made. And it sends a message that principles, values, and contributions are important. Well-chosen honorees affirm and dignify the University's own achievements and priorities.

Honorary degrees may be conferred upon those who have achieved distinction through outstanding intellectual or creative achievements, or through outstanding leadership in education, business, public service or other appropriate sectors of society.

B. Conditions

1. The honorary degree shall be awarded to recognize only exceptional accomplishments as outlined in the above principles. The nominee's special achievement or contribution to society shall be the fundamental consideration and shall be evaluated without regard to the nominee's attainment of influential position or financial status.
2. The nominee shall have gained distinction worthy of recognition extending well beyond his/her own field of endeavor and geographical area of activity.
3. Although it is recognized that it is desirable for the nominee to have a tie to the University of Kentucky or the Commonwealth of Kentucky, such a connection shall not be a requirement.
4. As long as the nominee clearly meets the criteria, his/her selection shall not be affected by the number of previous similar honors received.
5. Former faculty and staff of the University of Kentucky shall meet the same criteria as other nominees; current faculty and staff are not eligible.
6. Elected or appointed officials of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall not be eligible as honorary degree candidates during their terms of office.