

Senate Executive Committee

Motion to update honorary degree process

Brief History:

Senate Executive Committee along with UW-System President serves as the UWEC Honorary Degree Committee.

In Spring 2019, the Chancellor and Provost brought a proposal to senate executive committee to award an honorary doctorate. The executive committee had to make a recommendation after only a brief deliberation because the recommendation was due at System only two days later. Many members of the executive committee would have preferred to have more time to consider the recommendation.

In addition, UW system policy states that it is our responsibility to exercise due diligence in ensuring that a nominee is of high moral character (the last sentence of the following).

From UW System policy <https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/honorary-doctorate-degrees/>

The nomination and review process is confidential. No disclosure is to be made until after Board of Regents review and the institution's subsequent invitation to the nominee.

Each UW institution that nominates candidates for honorary doctorates shall have an honorary degree committee that recommends candidates for honorary degrees consistent with procedures, policies, and criteria developed at each institution and consistent with this Regent Policy Document.

At least two months prior to the commencement ceremony at which an honorary degree is to be conferred, and at least three weeks prior to a regularly-scheduled Board of Regents meeting, the UW institution shall forward to the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary of the Board of Regents: (1) a letter from the chancellor indicating the name of the nominee(s) and expressing the chancellor's approval; (2) the curriculum vitae or résumé of the nominee(s); and (3) letters of recommendation and other documentation of the contributions of the nominee and the merits of the nominee as an honorary degree recipient. It is the responsibility of the UW institution to exercise due diligence in ensuring that a nominee is of high moral character.

If the Senate Executive Committee is to exercise due diligence in ensuring that a nominee is of high moral character, the Committee needs advance notification of nominees and time to exercise due diligence.

Therefore we seek to mandate at least a second meeting and at least one week of time.

Recommends that:

The current language in the FASRP (p. 30 Section A.1.b) be changed as follows:

.....The executive committee along with UW System president (as per motion 09/2009) shall serve as the UW-Eau Claire Honorary Degree Committee (<https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/honorary-doctorate-degrees/>). **The executive committee will not make a recommendation for an honorary degree until it holds a second meeting. The second meeting must be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting at least 2 weeks after the initial meeting that addressed the honorary degree.**

Implementation date: January 2020 publication of the FASRP