Academic Affairs Committee
November 11, 2025

CLOSED SESSION

Action Item

AAC-3 Candidates for Honorary Degrees (Boyette)

Background Information

The University Committee on Honorary Degrees reviewed three nomination packets pursuant to the Honorary Degree Policy and Procedures *(see Policy and Procedures below).* All three are recommended for honorary degrees.

Recommended Action

That the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro review the recommended nominees and select a candidate or candidates for receipt of a University Honorary Degree.

Attachments:

AAC-3.1 Nomination Pakcket One (CLOSED)
AAC-3.2 Nomination Packet Two (CLOSED)
AAC-3.3 Nomination Packet Three (CLOSED)

J. Alan Boyette
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

HONORARY DEGREE POLICY AND PROCEDURES
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

(Adopted by Faculty Council, April 16, 1985)
(Guidelines Approved by the Board of Trustees, February 13, 1986)
(Amended by Faculty Council, November 14, 1989)
(Amended by the Board of Trustees, November 21, 1996)
(Amended by the Chancellor, December 1, 2009)
(Amended by the Board of Trustees, December 6, 2012)
(Revised by the Board of Trustees, September 28, 2018)

I. Purpose

The award of honorary degrees serves to recognize extraordinary individual achievements, to highlight the institutional values and the contributions that the individual makes to the University community or the broader society; and to provide positive acknowledgement of the importance of these contributions to the University, its mission, its principles and its people. The process of selection of honorary degree awardees shall reflect our values, which include opportunity and excellence for a diverse student body, experiential learning, undergraduate research, the practice of teaching, the use of impactful pedagogy, engagement in research and creative activities that advance our disciplines, addressing societal challenges and contributing to the larger pursuit of intellectual inquiry, while acknowledging that we are intricately tied to our local and regional community and that we share a place, fate, and a responsibility for being an active partner in the future of both.

II. Selection Criteria

The Board of Trustees seeks the broadest spectrum of achievements recognized inclusive of all callings, careers and services which impact both the individual and the broader community whether local, regional, national or international. Affiliation with the University is important, but lack thereof shall not be a disqualifying factor in the award of an honorary degree. The following factors represent the crucial criteria for consideration for the review of nominees for an honorary degree:

A. Achievements of extraordinary and lasting distinction in an activity consonant with the mission of the University: the advancement of learning in the liberal arts, sciences, and technology and for the public welfare; distinguished contribution in elective or appointive office; or career service notable for demonstrated qualities of intellect and character;

B. Sound justification for recognition by the University of such achievement and distinction: either an association of the individual with the University, or a recognizable relationship of a nominee's achievement to the mission of the University;

C. High qualities of personal and professional character and competence; and

D. Appropriateness of recognition at a ceremony attended by undergraduate and advanced degree candidates reflecting a diversity of interests and concerns.

E. Current employees are not eligible. Provided the above factors are met, a former employee may be considered for an honorary degree after five years of separation[1] from UNC Greensboro.

III. Honorary Degree Types

The University recognizes the following honorary degree titles. These titles include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Doctor of Laws (LL.D.): contributions to government or public service.

B. Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.): contributions to literature or the creative or performing arts.

C. Doctor of Science (Sc.D.): contributions to any field of science, social science, engineering or technology.

D. Doctor of Humane Letters (LH.D.): contributions to the humanities or to human welfare.

IV. The University Committee on Honorary Degrees; Membership.

The University Committee on Honorary Degrees (hereinafter "the Committee") shall administer the solicitation, collection and review of nominations for honorary degrees. The Committee shall be chaired by the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. Its membership shall be appointed by the Chancellor and shall include the following: The Vice Chancellor for Advancement, five (5) faculty members recommended by the faculty senate, and four (4) members selected by the Chancellor (to include, without limitation, individuals from amongst the faculty at various ranks, the Deans or other administrators, or other members of the community). All appointments should take into consideration community participation and diversity, which shall be broadly defined. Terms shall be staggered as four-year (academic year) appointments. Each member, including the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Advancement, shall have one vote.

V. Procedures

The procedures for proposing and awarding Honorary Degrees are as follows:

A. The Committee shall establish its own schedule regarding the nomination and selection process, which shall be coordinated with the meeting schedule of the Board. The solicitation for nominees for honorary degrees shall normally be undertaken in the fall semester of each academic year.

B. Nominations shall be solicited in writing for review by the Committee from all members

[1] For purposes of this policy, the five-year separation period starts at the date of separation from full-time employment.

of the campus community, including the Board of Trustees. All nominations shall be made in writing in accordance with application guidelines and shall be considered in strictest confidence.

C. The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall establish a process to assure that nominees are thoroughly reviewed and vetted prior to the Committee making its nominations to the Board of Trustees.

D. The Committee shall present its nominations to the Board of Trustees. The Committee's recommendation shall be presented by the Provost, acting as Chair, shall be based on the Committee's deliberations, and shall represent the majority consensus of the Committee.

E. The Board shall consider only those nominations recommended by the Committee.

F. Awardees are expected to be present to receive an honorary degree, although it is within the Board's discretion to make an award in absentia.

G. Normally the University will present at least one honorary degree each year.

H. Honorary degrees shall be awarded only at a Commencement.

I. The Committee and/or the Board of Trustees may maintain in its pool for consideration any person recommended, but not selected by the Board, for a period of two years. Any person not selected from the pool at the conclusion of the two-year period will be ineligible for re-nomination in the following two years, unless waived by the Board of Trustees.

J. The Board on its own motion may revoke, or the Committee may recommend revocation of, an honorary degree if there is a material change in the reputation of the honoree which would compromise the public trust, dishonor the University's standards, or otherwise be contrary to the best interest of the University. The mere passage of time shall not be a justification for the revocation of an honorary degree and shall not constitute a material change in reputation. Honors should not be altered simply because later observers would have made different judgments.

VI. Nomination and Approval of Honorary Degrees by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the final authority in granting an honorary degree. It may be that individuals nominated in one year may be proposed for an honorary degree in the next academic year depending on the number of nominations and other considerations.

The Committee will submit a recommendation to the Board of Trustees of which nominees should receive honorary degrees. The Board of Trustees shall grant final approval of honorary degree recipients.

Upon final action by the Board, the Chancellor or designee shall notify the awardee(s).In the event of the death of a nominee after the Board of Trustees has given final approval of the award, a posthumous award of the honorary degree may be bestowed by the Chancellor. A designee shall represent the recipient at the award ceremony.