Office of the President
March 29, 2011

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding the degree of Honorary Doctor of Letters to Barbara Hogan, Honorary Doctor of Letters to Ahmed Kathrada, Honorary Doctor of Science to Robert M. Drake, Jr., Honorary Doctor of Letters to T. Pearse Lyons, and Honorary Doctor of Letters to Albert P. Smith, Jr. as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degree be awarded to Barbara Hogan, Ahmed Kathrada, Robert M. Drake, Jr., T. Pearse Lyons, and Albert P. Smith, Jr. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

Action taken:  ✔ Approved   ☐ Disapproved   ☐ Other ______________________
Barbara Hogan
Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Letters
April 13, 2011 Academic Convocation

As a South African activist, health advocate, member of Parliament, and former Minister of Health and of Public Enterprise, Barbara Hogan has worked tirelessly in the nationwide struggle against Apartheid, the AIDS epidemic, and poverty. In each of these positions, Ms. Hogan is widely respected by colleagues, government and world leaders, and thousands of people around the world.

Born into a privileged family during the Apartheid regime, Hogan attended the University of the Witwatersrand, earning a degree in Development Studies and qualifications in Accounting and Economics. Following the brutal government oppression of the Soweto Uprising, she joined the African National Congress in 1977. As a member of the anti-Apartheid organization, she collected information about trade unions and community organizations, worked to mobilize white political opposition to the policy, and participated in public politic campaigning. She was arrested as a member of an illegal organization and was the first woman convicted of high treason after the Treason Trials of the 1950s. Sentenced to ten years imprisonment at Pretoria Central Prison, Hogan faced brutal interrogation and a year of solitary confinement before her release in 1990.

Following her release, her dedication to the betterment of the socio-economic and health conditions of her countrymen and women continued as she helped support the development of a democratic, multi-racial society in South Africa. She became a member of the African National Congress Executive Committee, was elected to Parliament, became head of Policy Development of the former Development Bank of South Africa, and participated in talks which led to the creation of a democratic South Africa. During the presidency of Nelson Mandela, Ms. Hogan chaired the Parliament finance committee and helped guide the country’s transition to a democratic economy.

In addition to her political activism, Ms. Hogan is a strong voice for public health in her country and has been an advocate for the scientific treatment of AIDS and is a founding member of the Amandla AIDS fund. As South Africa’s Minister of Health, Hogan led a fundamental rethinking of the nation’s response to the AIDS epidemic, earning her the everlasting support of the public health community. In 2009, she was named to Time Magazine’s list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

NOTE: Ms. Hogan will be visiting UK in mid-April, and the honorary doctorate would be awarded at a separate ceremony during that visit.
Ahmed Kathrada
Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Letters
April 13, 2011 Academic Convocation

As an outspoken activist, human rights leader, and presidential advisor, Mr. Kathrada has worked tirelessly and ultimately gave up his own freedom in protest of the brutal Apartheid regime of South Africa. His unwavering belief in basic human rights for all citizens of South Africa and his position as a trusted supporter and advisor of Nelson Mandela has earned him the respect of scholars, world leaders, and provided inspiration of millions of people around the globe.

During his youth, he was exposed to the harsh segregation laws of his country as he was forced to attend an “Indian” school. This began his interest in human rights and equality. Following travel in post-World War II Europe, Kathrada returned home where his anti-Apartheid activism escalated as he, Nelson Mandela, and Walter Sisulu were among a group arrested for organizing a Defiance Campaign against a series of Apartheid laws. This first arrest did not stop his commitment to activism as throughout the 1950s, his activities led to another arrest and prosecution during the Treason Trials. Although acquitted of wrongdoing, Kathrada was placed under house arrest and his “banned” political activities were forced underground. Eventually arrested again, along with Mr. Mandela, he faced a death sentence at the Rivonia Trial, unable to present evidence to the court that would have exonerated him from treason charges levied against him. While not sentenced to death, Kathrada was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor in 1964.

While a prisoner at Robben Island, Kathrada earned Bachelor’s degrees in History and Criminology, Library Science, and African Politics. Upon his release in 1989, he became a leader in the African National Congress. Elected to the National Executive Committee and heading up the Public Relations Department, he became one of Mr. Mandela’s closest advisors during the crucial transition to democracy in South Africa. In 1994, he was elected to the country’s Parliament and was appointed parliamentary counselor to President Mandela. Serving in this capacity for five years, Mr. Kathrada retired from active politics in 1999.

Mr. Kathrada also served as the Chairperson of the Robben Island Council that worked to transform that prison into a World Heritage Site. Additionally, he serves on the governing board for the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and in 2008; he created the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation with the objective of deepening non-racialism and advancing throughout the world.

Mr. Kathrada is the author of numerous books, including Memoris, which will be issued by the University Press of Kentucky in Spring 2011 under the title No Bread for Mandela.

NOTE: Mr. Kathrada will be visiting UK in mid-April and the honorary doctorate would be awarded at a separate ceremony during that visit.
Robert M. Drake, Jr.
Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Science
May 8, 2011 Commencement

Robert M. Drake, Jr. graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1942 and immediately joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He received his Master of Science (1946) and Doctor of Philosophy (1950) from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Drake resigned from the AAF in 1947 and joined the faculty of the College of Engineering at UC-Berkeley.

In 1954, Dr. Drake became an engine design specialist with the General Electric Company Aircraft Gas Turbine Division in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was named professor of mechanical engineering at Princeton University in 1957, and subsequently was named chairman of the department. While at Princeton he chaired the faculty committee that created Princeton’s Computing Center, co-founded Intertech Corporation, and was named by the Agency for International Development to the Steering Committee for the creation of the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur, India.

Dr. Drake left Princeton in 1963 to serve as senior staff consultant with the Arthur D. Little Company where he worked on several industrial and classified government projects. The next year he joined the faculty of the University of Kentucky College of Engineering. Dr. Drake was named chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1966 and served as Dean of the College of Engineering from 1966 until 1971, when he joined Combustion Engineering, Inc., as corporate vice president of research and development. He returned to UK in late 1975 as Special Assistant to the President in charge of major research programs, but left soon after to become Corporate Vice President, Technology for Studebaker-Worthington, New York. In 1981, he co-founded Projectron, Inc.

During his career, Dr. Drake consulted for many high technology companies and government agencies. He was a prolific publisher in the research literature on heat transfer and fluid mechanics, as well as being the author or co-author of three books with Ernest Eckert. At the time, it was the most referenced book on heat and mass transfer in the world. He is a University of Kentucky Fellow and a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering (1974), the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni (1979), and honorary member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (1980). Dr. Drake was inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Distinction in 1995.
Dr. T. Pearse Lyons
Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Letters
May 8, 2011 Commencement

Dr. T. Pearse Lyons is the founder and president of Alltech, a global leader in the animal health industry that employs more than 1,900 people, has a presence in 113 countries, and boasts sales of more than $400 million. Lyons received his bachelor’s degree from the National University of Ireland in Dublin and pursued his master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Birmingham, England. He later worked as a biochemist in Irish Distillers before founding Alltech in 1980.

Lyons received the State Export Award for Kentucky and was acknowledged as the leader of one of the top 100 fastest growing high-tech companies by World Trade Magazine. He was the Kentucky recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year in 1993. Lyons has been recognized for his contribution to science and industry and has been awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Plymouth, England, and Heriot-Watt University, Scotland. His alma mater, National University of Ireland, Dublin, selected Lyons as one of its honorary doctorates on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Recently, he was recognized as one of the top 15 Irish-American life scientists of the year by Biolink USA-Ireland. He has authored more than 20 books and numerous research papers in scientific journals.

Alltech and the University of Kentucky have long been partners in fields ranging from poultry to the opera. Alltech provides research opportunities for University students through agricultural research partnerships at the Coldstream Research facility. A lover of music, Dr. Lyons led Alltech to sponsor the Alltech Opera Scholarship Competition in 2006, placing UK Opera and Theatre among the top programs in the country. Additionally, Lyons established the Margin of Excellence program to establish graduate student fellowships in science to promote technology and development in Kentucky.

A humanitarian, Lyons has helped build laboratories at two local high schools and, in the wake of devastation, created a school in Haiti. Perhaps the most public exposition of Alltech’s generosity and vision came with the Alltech FEI 2010 World Equestrian Games. Infusing thirty-five million dollars into the games, Lyons and Alltech helped ensure the success of the games and that Lexington and Kentucky were positively portrayed on the world stage.
Albert P. Smith, Jr.
Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Letters
May 8, 2011 Commencement

After a 60-year career in journalism, Al Smith of Lexington retired in November of 2007 after 33 years as host producer of Comment on Kentucky, Kentucky Educational Television’s longest running show.

Al Smith attended Vanderbilt University and then spent his first 10 years in journalism working for daily papers in New Orleans. He came to Kentucky in 1958 to edit the Russellville News-Democrat, which later became part of a chain of weeklies which he organized and headed until selling the company in 1985. In Washington in the Carter and Reagan administrations (1980-82), he was federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, which invests in economic development in Kentucky and 12 other states.

He has chaired or been active in several statewide civic and educational groups including a Governor’s Council on Educational Reform (chair); the Kentucky Press Association (chair); the Shakertown Roundtable (chair); Governor’s Scholars (a founding director), Forward in the Fifth (a founding director), Council on Higher Education, the state Arts Commission (chair); state Oral History Commission (founding chair); the Prichard Committee for Educational Excellence (a founding director), and Leadership Kentucky (chair and a founding director).

Mr. Smith co-founded the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky. For the creation of the Institute and other service he was named a National Hero in Rural Media at a National Rural Assembly sponsored in 2007 by the Ford and Kellogg Foundations. In 2008, he was named a Fellow of the National Society of Professional Journalists, the highest award of that organization.

Other honors include: the UK Hall of Fame of Kentucky Journalism, state rural electric co-ops’ Distinguished Rural Kentuckian Award, Vic Hellard Award for public service from the Legislative Research Commission’s Long Term Policy Center, Kentucky Press Association’s Lewis Owen Award for Community Service presented by the Lexington Herald-Leader, Kentucky Broadcasters’ Ralph Gabbard Award for leadership, UK Library Associates Medallion for Intellectual Achievement, East Kentucky Leadership Conference Media Award, and Barren River Area Development District Tim Lee Carter Award for community service. The state’s annual Al Smith Arts Fellowships honor his support of community arts programs.