

# PR 4

Office of the President  
March 27, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding the degree of Honorary Doctor of Engineering to Vijay K. Dhir and Honorary Doctor of Science to Sally Mason 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 Vijay K. Dhir and Sally Mason. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

---

Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Vijay K. Dhir**  
**Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Engineering**  
**May 6, 2011 Commencement**

Vijay K. Dhir, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, was named Dean of UCLA's Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science in March 2003.

Born in India, Dr. Dhir received his Bachelor of Science degree from Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh, India, in 1965 and his Master of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, in 1968. He came to the United States in 1969 to continue his studies in mechanical engineering, receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1972. Dr. Dhir joined the faculty at UCLA in 1974. In the late 1960s he worked for a short period in industry as an engineer, and for the past 35 years he has been a consultant for numerous organizations, including GE Corp., Rockwell International, Hughes Aircraft, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Los Alamos and Brookhaven National Labs.

Dr. Dhir served as vice chair of the UCLA Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from 1988 to 1991, and was chair of that department from 1994 to 2000. From July 2001 to February 2002, he served as the school's associate dean for academic and faculty issues and as Interim Dean from February 2002 to March 2003. He has worked to make UCLA Engineering a hub for interdisciplinary research. In recent years, the School has won seven competitive research centers from the federal government and private industry that will bring more than \$150 million dollars to Southern California to spur research and development on emerging technologies. In 2006, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering – among the highest honors awarded to engineers – for his work in boiling heat transfer and nuclear reactor thermal hydraulics and safety.

In 2004, Dr. Dhir received the 2004 Max Jakob Memorial Award, the first person from UCLA to receive the award since L. M. K. Boelter, the founding dean of the School. He is a fellow of ASME and the American Nuclear Society. In 2004, he was selected as an inductee into the University of Kentucky's Engineering Hall of Distinction. He has also received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Heat Transfer Memorial Award in the Science category and the Donald Q. Kern award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is recipient of the Technical Achievement Award of the Thermal Hydraulics Division of the American Nuclear Society. In 2008, he received the Thurston Lecture Award of ASME. Dr. Dhir has been the senior technical editor for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Journal of Heat Transfer since 2000. Prior to being named senior technical editor, he also served as the Journal's associate editor. He is also a former assistant editor of Applied Mechanics Review. He is on the advisory boards of several other journals.

He also leads the boiling heat transfer lab, which has conducted pioneering work in fundamental and applied sciences involving boiling, an efficient process of heat removal. Currently the lab is involved in the study of flow boiling, micro-gravity boiling, and nuclear

reactor thermal hydraulics. Since 1999 a team of researchers led by Dr. Dhir has been taking part in a NASA research program to examine the effects of boiling in space. He has also partnered with UCLA electrical engineering professor Elliott Brown on an innovative method of removing high heat fluxes from power amplifier chips. Thirty PhD students and forty MS students have graduated under Dr. Dhir's supervision. He is also author or co-author of more than 300 papers published in archival journals and proceedings of conferences.

**Sally Mason**  
**Recommended for Honorary Doctor of Science**  
**May 6, 2012 Commencement**

Sally Mason became the 20th President of The University of Iowa on August 1, 2007. She holds a full professorship with tenure in the Department of Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The daughter of an immigrant family and the first child to attend college, President Mason received her B.A. in zoology from The University of Kentucky in 1972, her M.S. from Purdue University in 1974, and her Ph.D. in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology from The University of Arizona in 1978. She subsequently spent two years at Indiana University in Bloomington doing postdoctoral research before joining The University of Kansas in 1981. A strong advocate of undergraduate education, she received awards for outstanding undergraduate advising and teaching, and she was awarded a prestigious Kemper Teaching Fellowship. During her 21 years at Kansas, President Mason served as a full professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences, Acting Chair of the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, and Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 1995, she was appointed Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the largest academic unit on the University of Kansas campus. President Mason served as Provost of Purdue University from 2001-2007, where she was responsible for planning, managing, and reviewing all academic programs at Purdue's West Lafayette campus and four affiliated branch campuses throughout Indiana.

At Iowa, President Mason began a sustainable university initiative, making sustainability a central priority of all aspects of the University enterprise—its operations, its academic mission, and its greater responsibilities to society. An unexpected priority for President Mason was the historic flooding of the UI campus and the greater community in 2008, and her leadership helped bring the campus community together to preserve as much of the University's resources as possible and rebuild essential facilities in time to open the campus for a full complement of fall semester courses. Currently, she is overseeing campus rebuilding, especially the renewal of an arts campus for the 21st century. Under President Mason's leadership, the UI has successfully weathered major budget cuts during the country's recent economic crisis through careful planning, strategic prioritization, and increased efficiency. This was accomplished while maintaining top priorities of protecting the University's people, maintaining an affordable and accessible education while enhancing core teaching excellence, and providing critical base support for the University's growing research and clinical enterprises. Other major initiatives during President Mason's tenure have been a student success initiative, which has already seen results in both increased enrollment and student retention, and a marked expansion of partnership agreements with Iowa's community colleges that offer UI degrees to place-bound students throughout the state through on-site and distance learning programs.

President Mason is the author of many scientific papers and has obtained a number of research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Wesley Research Foundation, and the Lilly Endowment. Her research interests have focused on the developmental biology, genetics, and biochemistry of pigment cells and pigments in the skin of vertebrates, and she served as President of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research. Since 2006, President Mason has been appointed by the President of the United States to three terms on the National Medal of Science Selection Committee, which she currently chairs. She has also served as Chair of the Advisory Committee to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) and Chair of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) review panel of the NSF Science and Technology Centers Program.

As Chair of the Council of Presidents, President Mason is a member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). She currently also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education (ACE), and as Chair of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education (ICCPHSE). President Mason also served as President of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), and she has been a member of The Washington Center Council of Presidents since 2007.

In 2008-2009, President Mason co-chaired the Task Force on National Energy Policy and Midwestern Competitiveness of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Its report, *Embracing the Future: The Midwest and a New National Energy Policy*, was published in June 2009 and had an immediate impact on the national debate over how climate change legislation will impact Midwestern economic competitiveness. In 2009, President Mason became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, and in 2010 was appointed to the National Transportation Policy Task Force.