

PR 8

Office of the President
March 6, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding the degree of Honorary Doctor of Letters to Nicholas J. (Nick) Clooney, Honorary Doctor of Letters to Juanita W. Fleming, and Honorary Doctor of Letters to Virginia Gaines Fox, 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 Nicholas J. (Nick) Clooney, Juanita W. Fleming, and Virginia Gaines Fox. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Nicholas J. (Nick) Clooney
2007 Nominee for Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Letters

A native Kentuckian, Nick Clooney was born in Maysville, Kentucky in 1934 where he was raised along with his two sisters, Rosemary and Betty Clooney. Mr. Clooney began his career at age 16, when he took a job at a Maysville radio station. This was the start of a lengthy and distinguished career in television journalism as reporter, anchor, managing editor, and news director in Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Buffalo, and Los Angeles.

After his early start, Mr. Clooney moved his career from the radio to television and print media. Mr. Clooney ventured into print journalism in 1989 by authoring columns on politics, American history, travel, cinema, and social activism for the *Cincinnati Post* and the *Kentucky Post* three times a week. Mr. Clooney is the author of two books and is credited by his son George Clooney as the inspiration for George's recent film, *Good Night and Good Luck*. Over the years, Mr. Clooney has received numerous awards for his journalistic work. He was installed into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame and was named among "the best in the business of television news" by *Washington Review of Journalism*.

With respect to educating future journalists, Mr. Clooney has traveled the country to make presentations to students on the power and responsibility of journalists in a democracy. Mr. Clooney was very much affected by Edward R. Murrow and the importance of integrity in reporting the news. Mr. Clooney tells students to ask tough questions and ask hard enough to get to the truth; he emphasizes checking facts and being consistently accurate. Mr. Clooney has also been very active at KET, hosting several documentaries.

Recently, Mr. Clooney has devoted much time and effort reporting on the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. After having visited the Darfur refugee camps to collect information from the survivors, Mr. Clooney has worked tirelessly on behalf of the refugees to bring about public awareness of the plight of the people of Darfur in order to create pressure for a political resolution to the crisis there.

In view of his distinguished career in print, television, and radio journalism and his devotion to the plight of the people of Darfur, Nick Clooney is recommended as a recipient of the 2007 Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Virginia Gaines Fox
2007 Nominee for Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Letters

A seventh generation Kentuckian, Virginia Fox was born in Campbellsville, Kentucky. During her long and distinguished career, Fox has made great contributions to the education of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She has served many years in administrative positions at Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and served most recently as the Secretary for Kentucky's Education Cabinet.

Ms. Fox received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Morehead State University in 1961 and later earned a Master's degree in library science at UK in 1969. Ms. Fox has worked in a variety of education-related fields, including as an elementary school teacher, elementary school librarian, and a university instructor, before she began her long association with Kentucky Educational Television. At KET Ms. Fox has served in numerous positions, including Director of Education/ Programming, Deputy Executive Director, Executive Vice President of the KET Foundation, President of the KET Endowment, the Chief Operating Officer of KET, and Executive Director and CEO of KET.

One of highlights of Ms. Fox's career in public broadcasting has been the development of distance learning programs in order to bring educational opportunities to underserved students. She is founder of the Satellite Educational Resource Consortium (SERC) (the first public broadcaster/Department of Education interstate consortium for distance learning) and created the first National ITV Satellite Schedule (NISS) serving over 23 million students annually.

Ms. Fox is the recipient of many awards and honors. She received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. She received the Appalachian Woman of the Year award in 1995. She was granted the Best of Kentucky 2006 Technology Leadership Award, the Learning and Liberty Award in 2004 presented by the National School Public Relations Association, and numerous other awards and several honorary doctorates.

Ms. Fox was the first and at the time the only female CEO of a national organization in public broadcasting. She was also the founding director of the Organization of State Broadcasting Executives. In addition, Ms. Fox was the first public broadcasting representative selected by the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers for the (congressionally created) Independent Television Service Board.

On the basis of her lengthy and extensive career in public television and her creativity in distance learning, Virginia Fox is recommended as a recipient of the 2007 Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Juanita W. Fleming
2007 Nominee for Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Letters

Juanita Fleming faced many challenges as an African American woman in the academe. Her scholarly accomplishments, integrity, and high standards propelled her into the President's Cabinet at UK, where she served as the first female and first African American member. Dr. Fleming has held a variety of administrative and scholarly positions during her career. She most recently served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kentucky State University.

After being appointed to the UK faculty in 1969, Juanita Fleming became the first African American woman to become tenured and promoted to professor in the College of Nursing. She went on to become Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Education for the College of Nursing and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in the UK Medical Center. She was honored as an American Council on Education Fellow for Academic Administration in 1977. During 1991-2001 she served as Special Assistant to the UK President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Fleming consistently assumed leadership roles within the UK community, working for diversity by serving on innumerable university committees, including the Medical Center Cultural Diversity Committee, the university-wide Equal Opportunity Panel, and the Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor for Minority Affairs. Her commitment to excellence and diversity in healthcare and education continued after she retired from UK, when she agreed to co-chair the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Institute of Medicine, an organization formed in 2005 with the goal of providing the best advice concerning health and health care policy to the Commonwealth's leaders and the public.

As a scholar, Dr. Fleming has produced over 24 books and book chapters, over 50 refereed articles, and many other publications in the healthcare area. She has been the recipient of numerous internal and external grants and funding to study health issues in children with disabilities. She is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in the field of diversity in nursing and nursing education.

The recipient of many honors, Dr. Fleming was named an American Academy of Nursing Fellow, received both the Outstanding Alumnus and Hall of Fame awards from Hampton University, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Black Nursing Faculty, and in 2004, the "Living Legend" award from the American Academy of Nurses for her contributions to the nursing profession and higher education.

In light of Dr. Juanita Fleming's lengthy career devoted to increasing diversity in the medical field and her continuous service to medical institutions and institutions of higher education, Dr. Fleming is recommended as a recipient of the 2007 Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.