



## University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees

### I. Purpose and Responsibilities

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#### A. Purpose

The University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees is established jointly by the University Senate and the President of the University (SR 5.4.2.3) to identify, evaluate, and recommend to the University Senate candidates for the award of an honorary degree.

#### B. Responsibilities

The joint committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Identify candidates for honorary degrees through a broadcast solicitation;
2. Evaluate the qualifications of candidates and compile a list of recommended nominees; and,
3. Transmit to the University Senate through the Office of the Senate Council Chair a list of those nominees for the award of an honorary degree endorsed by majority vote of the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees. As prescribed in SR 5.4.2.3.B.2, supporting information shall accompany each nomination forwarded by the committee.

### II. Membership

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#### A. Membership Composition

The University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be appointed by the President in his role as the Chair of the University Senate and shall consist of seven (7) appointed members and four (4) ex-officio members. Appointed members and ex officio members are designated as voting or non-voting below.

##### 1. Appointed Members

- (a) Four (4) members shall be selected by the Senate Council from the University Faculty (voting).
- (b) Two (2) members shall be selected by the President from the University Faculty (voting).
- (c) One appointed member of the Board of Trustees shall be selected by the Board Chair to serve as the Board's Liaison (non-voting) to the committee.

##### 2. Ex-Officio Members

- (a) The Provost, or the Provost's designee, shall serve as an ex officio member on the committee (voting).
- (b) The Dean of the Graduate School shall serve as an ex officio member on the committee (voting).
- (c) The Senate Council Chair shall serve as ex officio member of the committee (non-voting).
- (d) The President shall designate one other ex officio member of the committee from the senior administration (non-voting).

### 3. Committee Chair

The Dean of the Graduate School shall serve as the committee Chair, unless unavailable, in which case the President, in consultation with the Senate Council Chair, shall designate the committee Chair from the faculty members as in Section II.A.1(a)&(b) herein.

### 4. Quorum

A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for committee action.

## B. Conditions for Appointment

- 1. The six (6) committee members appointed from the University Faculty shall have staggered three-year appointments. The Board Liaison shall have a one-year appointment, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Board Chair. Ex Officio members are standing members of the committee.
- 2. The President and Senate Council Chair shall confer each year before finalizing the faculty membership on the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees to ensure that the proposed list of faculty appointees is broadly representative of the faculties of the University.

## III. Role of the University Senate

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### A. Nominations to the Board of Trustees

The ninety-four (94) elected faculty representatives in the University Senate comprise the body authorized to vote on the names placed in nomination by the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (GR IV.A). The names of those nominees favorably recommended by the elected faculty representatives in the University Senate, along with any specified supporting documentation, shall be transmitted to the UK Board of Trustees for its approval.

### B. President as Chair of the University Senate

The President retains the right to address either the University Senate (in the role as the Chair of the University Senate) or the Board of Trustees (in the role as President) about the qualifications of a nominee(s) for the award of an honorary degree.

## IV. References and Related Materials

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KRS 164.240

Governing Regulation, Part IV - The University Senate

University Senate Rule 5.4.2.3

## Revision History

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AR III-1.0-6: 9/21/2006, 9/28/2007

AR 11:4: 8/1/2009, 10/5/2009

For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)