

University of Kentucky Senate

Recommendation to the Board of Trustees on the
Posthumous Recognition of UK Students:

In Memoriam Posthumous Degree

A. Purpose of *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree*

Pursuant to Senate Rule 5.4.5.A, the University of Kentucky Senate seeks to provide to the families of deceased students who had not completed requirements for a degree with a meaningful acknowledgment of the achievements and legacy of the student and, at the same time, uphold academic and institutional integrity. To meet these goals, the University Senate recommends that the UK Board of Trustees establish a new category and title of Honorary Degree, *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree*, to be conferred upon final action by the Board of Trustees.

B. Conditions for Conferral of *In Memoriam Posthumous Degrees*

1. Eligibility. An *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree* allows for recognition of a student's connection to the University of Kentucky regardless of their progress toward completion of degree requirements.. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who were registered in a degree program at the time of their death, but did not complete degree requirements, are eligible for an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree*.

2. Procedures. A proposal for conferral of an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree* shall be initiated and processed as follows:

- a. Upon being made aware of the deceased student by either the family or chair of the student's home department, the Dean's Office of the student's college shall consult with the student's degree program and the Dean of Students Office to review the student's academic record, to confirm that at the time of death:
 - (1) the student was in a UK degree-seeking status, and
 - (2) the student was in good academic standing
- b. The Dean's Office shall forward the request for an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree* to the Office of the University Registrar and to the University Senate.
- c. The elected Faculty Senators shall forward the request by the degree list process to the University President for transmittal to the Board of Trustees for final action. However, if the student's death was in connection with the student committing a heinous act, then the elected Faculty Senators may vote to disapprove forwarding the recommendation. In such rare cases, the elected Faculty Senators will provide, through the Senate Council, a written justification of the disapproval to the President (Chair of the Senate).
- d. Upon final approval by the Board of Trustees, the Office of University Registrar shall prepare an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree* diploma for the student's family. The diploma document for this honorary degree title will be structured the same as for other honorary degrees (SR 5.4.5.B).

Senate Rule 5.4.5.A

“...Upon the recommendation of the elected faculty Senators in the University Senate, the Board of Trustees may award, and prescribe conditions for, new categories of academic honors that are conferred only upon final Board action (pursuant to KRS 164.240 and GR IV.A).”

Senate Rule 5.4.5.B

“B. Diplomas Issued to Recipients of Honorary Degrees [US: 2/13/06]

Diplomas attesting to the award of an Honorary Degree shall include the name of the University, the date of the award of the degree and its title, that the authority under which the Honorary Degree is being conferred is that of the “Board of Trustees” and the “University Faculty”, and signatures representing that authority (i.e., the University Faculty being represented by the signature of the President who is Chair of the University Senate, and the Board of Trustees being represented by the signature of the Chair of the Board).”