

Senate Council
January 12, 2015

Proposed Changes to 5.4.5.C.b.i (“Diplomas”, “In Memoriam Posthumous Degrees”)

5.4.5 DIPLOMAS

Diplomas may be issued at a December or May Commencement Convocation. They may be issued by the University Registrar at other times when the degrees have been recommended by the University Senate and approved by the Board of Trustees.

A. Diplomas Issued to Graduated Students [US: 2/13/2006]

Pursuant to delegation from the Board of Trustees, the University Senate establishes final policy on the informational content to be included on diplomas (GR IV.C. 3). Diplomas attesting the award of degrees and honors may be issued at a December or May Commencement Convocation. They may be issued by the University Registrar at other times when the degrees have been recommended by the University Faculty through the elected faculty senators in University Senate and approved by the Board of Trustees (KRS 164.240; GR IV.A). [US: 2/14/11]

Diplomas shall display the name of the University, the name of the degree being conferred, the authority under which the indicated degree is being conferred, and signatures representing that authority (i.e., the University Senate 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).

Each college dean shall attest to the Registrar the names of graduates in their college who have met the conditions for the “degree honors” prescribed above in SR 5.4.2.2.A-F. The Registrar shall ascertain the names of graduates who have met the conditions for Honors Program recognition (SR 5.4.2.2.G). The honors specified in SR 5.4.2.2.A-G shall be displayed on the diploma, along with the signatures of the attesting college dean and Registrar.

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).

- * The elected University Faculty Senators control the qualifications that enable students prospectively graduating in a given semester to be included on the list received from the University Registrar, for the vote of the elected Faculty Senators, on whether to approve recommending those graduates to the Board of Trustees for conferral of a degree. The current requirements for eligibility of prospectively graduating students for inclusion on the list for conferral of a Ph.D. are that, by a stated deadline during that semester, the respective Director of Graduate Studies attests in writing to the Graduate School that: the graduate student (a) was not in a conditional status, (b) had no "I" and "S" grades in credit-bearing courses, (c) had passed the qualifying examination, (d) has a reasonable prospect for successful defense and submission of a dissertation for that semester's graduation, and (e) had met all other requirements of the individual's graduate program for the degree. [SREC: 8/2009]

B. Diplomas Issued to Recipients of Honorary Degrees [US: 2/13/2006]

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).

C. In Memoriam Posthumous Degrees [US: 2/10/2014]

1. Purpose. 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.

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

- a. **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.
- b. **Procedures.** A proposal for conferral of an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree shall be initiated and processed as follows:
 - i. 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 inform the Senate Council office, which will consult with the student's degree program and the Dean of Students Office, as well as the Office of the Registrar 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.
 - ii. The Dean's Senate Council Office shall forward the request for an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree to the Office of the University Registrar and to the University Senate.
 - iii. If approved, 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. 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).
 - iv. 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).