

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Ken Calvert [calvert@netlab.uky.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2006 1:24 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: Admission & Academic Standards - Meeting notes

Attachments: Honorary Degree Criteria.doc



Honorary Degree
Criteria.doc (...)

Dear Ms. Brothers,

Here are notes from the AAS committee meeting yesterday.

Let me know if you need anything else.

ken Calvert

The admissions and academic standards committee met Tuesday, 3 October at 1pm in OHR 120. Present were Peggy Piascik, Suzanne Segerstrom, Christine Blank, and Ken Calvert.

Honorary Degrees

The committee proposes the language in the attached Word document, which is similar to the current "Criteria" and "Principles and Guidelines" language, except for the following changes:

(i) Reorganized into "Principles" and "Guidelines"

(ii) Added language to "Principles" stating the purpose of awarding honorary degrees. The committee felt that including such a statement provides context and clarifies the spirit in which the criteria are intended to be interpreted. (The statement in the attached document is derived from those of Colorado State University and the University System of Georgia.)

(iii) The old language was unclear regarding whether current faculty & staff are eligible to receive honorary degrees. This has been changed to state that "Current and former" faculty/staff must meet the same criteria as other nominees. (The committee didn't feel strongly either way regarding whether current employees are eligible, but felt that the matter should be clear.)

In addition, it is not clear whether this is within the scope of the committee's charge, but the committee feels that anonymous nominations are not appropriate for honorary degrees.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Calvert

Honorary Degree Criteria

Principles

In awarding Honorary Degrees, the University accomplishes several purposes: It pays tribute to those whose life and work exemplify professional, intellectual, or artistic achievement. It recognizes and appreciates those who have made significant contributions to society, the state, and the University. It highlights the diverse ways in which such contributions can be made. And it sends a message that principles, values, and contributions are important. Well-chosen honorees affirm and dignify the University's own achievements and priorities.

Honorary degrees may be conferred upon those who have achieved distinction through outstanding intellectual or creative achievements, or through outstanding leadership in education, business, public service or other appropriate sectors of society.

Guidelines

1. The honorary degree shall be awarded to recognize only exceptional accomplishments as outlined in the above principles. The nominee's special achievement or contribution to society shall be the fundamental consideration and shall be evaluated without regard to the nominee's attainment of influential position or financial status.
2. The nominee shall have gained distinction worthy of recognition extending well beyond his/her own field of endeavor and geographical area of activity.
3. Although it is recognized that it is desirable for the nominee to have a tie to the University of Kentucky or the Commonwealth of Kentucky, such a connection shall not be a requirement.
4. As long as the nominee clearly meets the criteria, his/her selection shall not be affected by the number of previous similar honors received.
5. Current and former faculty and staff of the University of Kentucky shall meet the same criteria as other nominees.
6. Elected or appointed officials of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall not be eligible as honorary degree candidates during their terms of office.
7. Except on special occasions or in unusual circumstances, the number of honorary degrees awarded at any given ceremony shall be limited to three.
8. The honoree must be present to receive the honorary degree.
9. The honorary degree shall be conferred at the regular university graduation ceremony or at a special assembly or convocation.