

Connecticut State University System

39 Woodland Street ■ Hartford, CT 06105-2337 ■ 860-493-0000 ■ www.ctstateu.edu

BR# 09-79

RESOLUTION

revising

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE GRANTING OF HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

in the

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

December 10, 2009

WHEREAS, The growth and increased prominence of the universities in the Connecticut State University System have made the award of honorary doctoral degrees a more frequent occurrence, recognizing a wider and more prestigious range of individuals whose contributions are more fitting to various types of doctoral degrees, and who may be deserving of system-level honorary doctorate to be conferred by all of the universities, and

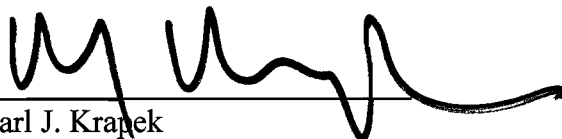
WHEREAS, Further delineation of the process for selection and communication are needed, and

WHEREAS, According to the above, policies and procedures for the granting of honorary doctoral degrees within the Connecticut State University System have been reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and recommendations on changes have been formulated, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Board of Trustees resolution 01-57 is hereby rescinded, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the addendum to this resolution, entitled "Policies and Procedures for Granting Honorary Doctoral Degrees in the Connecticut State University System," is hereby adopted.

A Certified True Copy:


Karl J. Krajek
Chairman

Policies and Procedures for Granting Honorary Doctoral Degrees in the Connecticut State University System

I. POLICIES

- A. The granting of honorary doctoral degrees to individuals who have made a significant contribution to society or to a university is a common practice in higher education. In the Connecticut State University System the purpose of granting honorary doctoral degrees is to honor a person and to advance the work and reputation of the Connecticut State University System. The Board of Trustees must approve any conferral of an honorary degree.
- B. Universities may select from the following categories of honorary degrees based upon the intended recipient's field of contribution, achievement, service, and distinction:
 - 1. Doctor of Fine Arts
 - 2. Doctor of Humane Letters
 - 3. Doctor of Laws
 - 4. Doctor of Literature
 - 5. Doctor of Music
 - 6. Doctor of Pedagogy
 - 7. Doctor of Science
 - 8. Doctor of Political Science
- C. Honorary degrees shall be granted only when circumstances warrant such action. It is possible that in some years no honorary degree will be awarded. The conferring of the Presidential Medal should be considered for meritorious recognition. A person awarded an honorary doctoral degree by one CSU university will not be awarded an honorary degree by another CSU university within five years after the award of the first.
- D. No person during his or her term as a member of the Board of Trustees and no person during his or her employment by the Connecticut State University System shall be granted an honorary degree.
- E. No Connecticut resident holding elective office from a Connecticut constituency and no Connecticut resident holding appointive office in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of state government shall be considered for an honorary degree during the term of his/her election or appointment and for one year, thereafter.
- F. No degree shall be conferred in consideration of the payment of money or other valuable things.
- G. Ordinarily, an honorary degree will not be awarded posthumously.

- H. All honorary degrees will be conferred by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees or by a Trustee designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Following is the wording to be used when conferring the honorary degree:

"BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, THE TRUSTEES OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CONCURRING, I CONFER UPON YOU THE DEGREE, DOCTOR OF HONORIS CAUSA, AND INVEST YOU WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THEREUNTO. IN TOKEN THEREOF I HAND TO YOU THE DIPLOM AND DIRECT THAT YOU BE VESTED WITH THE HOOD APPROPRIATE TO YOUR DEGREE."

- I. The format of the diploma presented to the recipients of honorary degrees shall be approved by the Trustees. The hood to be worn by the recipients of honorary degrees shall be a design approved by the Trustees.

II. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

The Board of Trustees is supportive of the following procedures for selection of candidates that have been developed by the Chancellor.

- A. Identification of potential recipients of honorary doctoral degrees will be made under the supervision of the university president. The president shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the name of the potential recipient until the process has been concluded.
- B. The university president himself/herself shall forward to the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System the name of a potential recipient with an explanation as to why the individual merits the honor, a thorough discussion of the potential recipient's background and an assessment of the benefits and possible criticism or controversy which may result from the potential recipient's being granted an honorary doctorate. Before recommending to the Chancellor, the President shall, in confidence, determine whether the proposed candidate is amenable to receiving such an honor and is available, taking care to make no commitment.
- C. The Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System shall present the university president's recommendation to the Academic Affairs Committee together with his or her own recommendation.
- D. When the Academic Affairs Committee has given its approval to the awarding of the honorary degree, the university president will ask the prospective recipient to communicate in writing his or her commitment to accept the honorary degree at a specific place, at a specific time, and at a specific ceremony, and, if requested, the commitment to deliver an address.
- E. Occasionally, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Chancellor, may recommend a candidate to receive a Connecticut State University System-wide honorary degree to be conferred at an occasion

determined by the Board of Trustees. In this case, the Chancellor will communicate to the potential recipient to determine whether the proposed candidate is amenable to receiving such an honor and is available, taking care to make no commitment.

- F. When a prospective honorary degree recipient confirms in writing his or her commitment to accept the offered degree at the specified time, place, and ceremony; and if requested, his or her commitment to deliver an address, the nomination will be presented to the full Board of Trustees for confirmation.
- G. The process of proposing a nominee, committee deliberation, and Board action should occur as early as possible, with final approval by the full Board of Trustees not less than six weeks before the ceremony.