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| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b><br>BTRU Board of Trustees         |  | <b>POLICY NUMBER</b><br>BTRU 2.01                 |
| <b>POLICY TITLE</b><br>Honorary Degree Recipients                |  |                                                   |
| <b>SCOPE OF POLICY</b><br>USC System                             |  | <b>DATE OF REVISION</b><br>April 24, 2018         |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b><br>Secretary of the Board of Trustees |  | <b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b><br>Board of Trustees |

## **PURPOSE**

The award of an honorary degree is the highest honor the University of South Carolina can bestow. For that reason, the university selects to receive an honorary degree only to those individuals of genuine distinction who have a sustained record of excellence of accomplishment or exemplary service of lasting significance. Recipients of honorary degrees should enhance the reputation of the university.

## **DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

HDR – Honorary Degree Recipient.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board of Trustees has established the following guidelines for the nomination and selection of individuals to receive an honorary degree from the University of South Carolina.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **A. Criteria**

Recipients of honorary degrees are restricted to those persons outstanding in their contributions or service to the university, State of South Carolina, the nation or the international community, or in their profession or field of endeavor. Areas of excellence shall include scholarship, the arts, the learned professions, public service, and cultural, scientific, economic, or humanitarian activities.

Candidates should represent the highest values of the university and exemplify its motto: “Learning humanizes character and does not permit it to be cruel.” Strength of character as it relates to the values and mission of the university is essential.

Direct association with the university is not a qualification for serious consideration and, except in extraordinary circumstances, persons who have spent the greater part of their careers as members of the university faculty or administration will not be considered.

Over time nominees will be chosen who represent the breadth of commitments of the university.

B. Nomination Process

All constituents of the University of South Carolina should be encouraged to submit nominations for an honorary degree. Nominations for honorary degrees may be made as follows:

1. The Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees “shall recommend recipients of honorary degrees to the president and the Board of Trustees. The provost or appointed representative shall be ex officio chair.” (Faculty Manual)

Nominations from the Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

2. Any person may submit to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees a nomination for an honorary degree.

In all cases, nominations must be made on the nomination form set forth in Appendix A. The form may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees or at [http://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/board\\_of\\_trustees/governance/index.php](http://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/board_of_trustees/governance/index.php). The completed form should be returned to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. A cover letter and a brief biographical description of the nominee should be attached to the nomination form.

C. Role of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall maintain a record of all nominations for honorary degrees and shall present the nominations to the Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees for consideration.

D. Role of the Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees

There shall be a subcommittee of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee composed of the Chair of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee and two other members of the committee appointed by the chair, and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees as an ex officio, non-voting member. The subcommittee shall meet, receive directly information regarding, and discuss all potential nominees as collected by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees from all potential sources. After thorough review, the subcommittee shall forward to the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee those names considered worthy of receipt of the university’s highest honor.

E. Role of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee

The Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee shall review from time to time all recommendations forwarded by the subcommittee. The committee considers honorary

degree nominations in executive session. If there is no opposition to a recommendation, the nomination is presented to the president of the university.

**F. Role of the President**

The president shall review all nominations for honorary degrees forwarded by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee. If the president has no objection the nomination lays on the table until the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. If the president does not recommend a nominee, that person shall be reconsidered by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee.

**G. Role of the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees considers honorary degree recommendations from the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee in executive session. If there is no opposition to a recommendation, the nomination lays on the table for a period not to exceed ten (10) years. During such time period, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees is authorized to coordinate the potential presentation of an honorary degree to the candidate. Honorary degrees shall in no instance be presented in absentia or posthumously. The Board of Trustees may remove a nomination from the table and approve the award of an honorary degree at any time.

**H. Expiration of Nominations**

Nominations that have laid on the table for a period of ten (10) years without being removed from the table and approved for the award of an honorary degree by the Board of Trustees shall expire and be automatically removed from the list of active nominations. Such nominations may be resubmitted through the process set forth above.

**HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

| <b>DATE OF REVISION</b> | <b>REASON FOR REVISION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 19, 2006        | New policy approval                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| February 28, 2013       | The addition of “university” to the following sentence under “Criteria”:<br><br>“Recipients of honorary degrees are restricted to those persons outstanding in their contributions or service to the university, State of South Carolina, the nation or the international community, or in their profession or field of endeavor.” |
| April 13, 2018          | The updated Honorary Degree and Commencement Speaker Nomination form was linked. The policy also was reformatted into the new policy template.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A: [Honorary Degree and Commencement Speaker Nomination Form](#)