

# THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER RULES

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## **11.07.99.Z1 Granting of Honorary Degrees**

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Supplements System Policy 11.07

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### **1. GENERAL**

The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (HSC) selectively and judiciously awards honorary doctorates to individuals of exceptional accomplishment in order to bring honor and recognition to Health Science Center and to identify persons whose scholarly accomplishments and service to humanity can be considered exemplary. Each component of the Health Science Center shall have representation on the selection committee.

Professional relations that are created by the process of awarding of an honorary degree are a means of aiding the Health Science Center's scholarly community in setting and achieving its academic mission. The Committee on Honorary Degrees will actively solicit nominations from all components. Nominees who are not selected in any particular year, but are otherwise deemed meritorious, will remain eligible for consideration for three years from the date of nomination.

### **2. CRITERIA**

The Health Science Center awards honorary doctorate degrees principally to individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the health sciences, or service to humanity. On occasion an honorary doctorate may be awarded to an individual from industry, government, communications, health services, or another public arena who has distinguished himself or herself through significant national or international contributions.

### **3. RESTRICTIONS**

3.1 Honorary doctorates recognize an individual, not an office or position. So far as possible, there will be an effort to ensure that the persons honored represent a variety of fields of endeavor. The honorary degree is one of the highest awards bestowed and should be given only rarely and then commensurate with the level of esteem with which these degrees are held. Normally, honorary degrees will be awarded at one or more of the HSC graduation ceremonies, and the recipient must be present to receive the award.

3.2 Honorary doctorates are not awarded:

3.2.1 posthumously;

3.2.2 to current employees of the Health Science Center;

- 3.2.3 to individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over the Health Science Center; or
- 3.2.4 in consideration of any past, present, or future gift or other benefaction to the Health Science Center.

#### **4. SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF RECIPIENTS**

- 4.1 The Health Science Center Committee on Honorary Degrees shall consist of nine tenured faculty members with distinguished records of scholarship and publication serving staggered three-year terms. Each year two members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, and one by the President, for a three year term beginning April 1. The Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her representative shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the committee. The Committee shall recommend to the President an individual from among its voting membership to serve as Chair of the Committee.
- 4.2 Nominations shall be submitted by the administration, members of the board, or resolution of the faculty of a component of the Health Science Center to the Chair of the Committee on Honorary Degrees. Nominations must be received by October 15 of the calendar year preceding that in which the degree is to be awarded; any exception to this procedure requires approval of at least seven voting members of the Committee.
- 4.3 A completed nomination packet shall consist of the following: a letter of nomination, a letter of support from the appropriate component, and the nominee's curriculum vitae.
- 4.4 Nominations and supporting documents shall be reviewed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees. The Committee shall select nominees for further consideration by the Faculty Senate.
- 4.5 Nominations for recipients of Honorary Degrees shall be submitted for approval by the Faculty Senate in a closed executive session at least 120 days prior to the commencement exercise at which the degree is to be awarded.
- 4.6 All nominations approved by the Faculty Senate, and a record of the vote by the Faculty Senate, shall be forwarded to the President.
- 4.7 The President shall present his/her choice of approved nominees, through the Chancellor, to the Board of Regents.
- 4.8 Honorary doctorate degrees shall be awarded only to those nominees approved by the Committee on Honorary Degrees, the Faculty Senate, the President, and the Board of Regents. The names will be made public with the appropriate graduation ceremony announcement.

#### **OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

##### **Vice President for Academic Affairs**