

***Faculty Senate Committee on Rules***  
**Response to Charges**

**Rules Committee members:** Seth Hoelscher (chair), Terrel Gallaway, Kartik Ghosh, Beth Walker, Lanya Lamouria (*ex officio*), Cindy MacGregor (*ex officio*)

**Recommendation by Committee**

**Charge #4**

**Clarify Language Regarding Membership of the Committee on Honorary Degrees (ART 1, SEC 9.8b)**

The language of this section enumerates the membership of the committee, but it seems to suggest that each college is represented, and each “academic entity” is represented, which would give two representatives to colleges that also operate as “academic entities” in some respects. We ask that Rules clarify the intent of the committee membership.

**Recommendation: Changes to the Bylaws and Addition to the “Academic Entities” webpage**

Add the following proposed language to the “Academic Entities” site (<http://www.missouristate.edu/facultysenate/entities.htm>) on the Missouri State University Faculty Senate website:

**For academic units that are atypical, this table is to be used as a guide for determining the type of representation on Faculty Senate committees and councils. For purposes of representation, these units are to be treated “like” the unit listed in the table.**

## **Current Language of the Bylaws**

### **ART I FACULTY SENATE**

#### **SEC 9 Committees of the Faculty Senate**

##### **(8) Committee on Honorary Degrees**

###### **(a) Purpose**

Review nominations and select recipients for University Honorary Degrees according to the following procedures:

- (aa) Nominations are to be sought from the entire University Community. Nominations are to be made confidentially and are to remain confidential throughout the selection process.
- (bb) An honorary degree is a symbol of recognition and respect; it is not recognized as an earned degree. The committee should feel no pressure to select an honoree in any given year if it does not receive any nominations it deems worthy of this type of honor.
- (cc) The honoree must be living at the time of selection and will receive the honor at the spring commencement. If an honoree dies during the interim between selection and the spring commencement awards ceremony, then the award will be presented posthumously.
- (dd) The honorary doctorate degree recognizes the extraordinary achievements of distinguished citizens (SA 36-00/01).
  - (i) No more than two honorary doctorate degrees may be conferred annually.
  - (ii) Current members of the MSU staff, faculty, administration, and Board of Governors, as well as elected officials while holding elected office, are not eligible. Any individual who has worked for

the MSU system as a full-time employee at any time during the past 20 years is not eligible. If a nominee worked for the MSU system prior to 20 years ago, the nominee must warrant recognition for achievements attained after leaving the MSU system.

- (iii) Financial considerations should not be involved in the selection process. The honorary doctorate should not be used to reward financial support for the University.
- (iv) The individual honored should have a strong tie to this community, state, or region. Although individuals with nationwide and worldwide recognition should not be excluded, preference should be given to distinguished candidates who have not been widely recognized and honored.
- (v) Nomination materials must clearly document contributions outside of the nominee's job expectations.
- (vi) Four types of honorary doctorate may be bestowed: the Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), given to persons who have distinguished themselves in the humanities; the Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), given to scholars in particular disciplines; the Doctor of Public Affairs (A.P.D.), given to persons distinguished in general service to the public, to learning and to humankind; and the Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), given to persons who have made distinguished contributions to sciences.

(ee) The honorary undergraduate degree is only awarded in rare and exceptional circumstances. No more than one honorary undergraduate degree may be conferred annually.

(ff) The Committee on Honorary Degrees will review nominations and complete its deliberations by November 15, when it will then present its recommendation, if any, to the Faculty Senate for its December session. Upon approval of the Senate,

the recommendation will be forwarded to the President and to the Board of Governors.

(b) Membership

The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall comprise the following: one faculty member from each academic college appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate; one faculty member from each entity so identified in <http://www.missouristate.edu/facultysenate/entities.htm>, appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate; the dean of the Graduate College or an appointed representative; the Provost or an appointed representative; and one student selected from either the Honors College or the Graduate College. The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall appoint one of the faculty representatives to serve as chair of the committee. The Past-Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve on the Committee on Honorary Degrees as an *ex officio* member without vote.

**Proposed Changes to the Bylaws**  
(**bold** indicates additions & ~~strike through~~ indicates deletions)

ART I FACULTY SENATE

SEC 9 Committees of the Faculty Senate

(8) Committee on Honorary Degrees

(a) Purpose

Review nominations and select recipients for University Honorary Degrees according to the following procedures:

- (aa) Nominations are to be sought from the entire University Community. Nominations are to be made confidentially and are to remain confidential throughout the selection process.
- (bb) An honorary degree is a symbol of recognition and respect; it is not recognized as an earned degree. The committee should feel no pressure to select an honoree in any given year if it does not receive any nominations it deems worthy of this type of honor.
- (cc) The honoree must be living at the time of selection and will receive the honor at the spring commencement. If an honoree dies during the interim between selection and the spring commencement awards ceremony, then the award will be presented posthumously.
- (dd) The honorary doctorate degree recognizes the extraordinary achievements of distinguished citizens (SA 36-00/01).
  - (i) No more than two honorary doctorate degrees may be conferred annually.

- (ii) Current members of the MSU staff, faculty, administration, and Board of Governors, as well as elected officials while holding elected office, are not eligible. Any individual who has worked for the MSU system as a full-time employee at any time during the past 20 years is not eligible. If a nominee worked for the MSU system prior to 20 years ago, the nominee must warrant recognition for achievements attained after leaving the MSU system.
- (iii) Financial considerations should not be involved in the selection process. The honorary doctorate should not be used to reward financial support for the University.
- (iv) The individual honored should have a strong tie to this community, state, or region. Although individuals with nationwide and worldwide recognition should not be excluded, preference should be given to distinguished candidates who have not been widely recognized and honored.
- (v) Nomination materials must clearly document contributions outside of the nominee's job expectations.
- (vi) Four types of honorary doctorate may be bestowed: the Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), given to persons who have distinguished themselves in the humanities; the Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), given to scholars in particular disciplines; the Doctor of Public Affairs (A.P.D.), given to persons distinguished in general service to the public, to learning and to humankind; and the Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), given to persons who have made distinguished contributions to sciences.

(ee) The honorary undergraduate degree is only awarded in rare and exceptional circumstances. No more than one honorary undergraduate degree may be conferred annually.

(ff) The Committee on Honorary Degrees will review nominations and complete its deliberations by November 15, when it will then present its recommendation, if any, to the Faculty Senate for its December session. Upon approval of the Senate, the recommendation will be forwarded to the President and to the Board of Governors.

(b) Membership

The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall comprise the following: one faculty member from each academic college appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate; **if warranted** one faculty member from each entity so identified in <http://www.missouristate.edu/facultysenate/entities.htm>, appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate; the **e**Dean of the Graduate College or an appointed representative; the Provost or an appointed representative; and one student selected from either the Honors College or the Graduate College. The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall appoint one of the faculty representatives to serve as chair of the committee. The Past-Chair of the Faculty Senate shall serve on the Committee on Honorary Degrees as an *ex officio* member without vote.