

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 19, 2011

To: Ms. Karen Roche, University Secretary

From: Dr. Paul Berger, Chair, Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

Subject: Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

Rationale for Proposed Changes:

The Registrar knows about graduation dates and planning and will be an asset to the Committee in coordinating recipients. The Registrar indicated support for being added to the Committee.

Suggested by the LUSU Student Representative, the majority of Committee members felt that involving Alumni on this Committee would bring representation from a valuable segment of the University community. Lakehead alumni sometimes are nominated for honorary degrees, and including an alumnus on the Committee will foster good relations with the alumni community.

Three year terms would be preferable since the Committee generally only meets twice a year. Three years would give members a chance to be used to the procedures. This would be especially helpful for future Chairs of the Committee, who currently have only two meetings to learn procedures before taking over. With the addition last year of an Orillia member, the Committee is large enough for turnover each year even with the proposed longer term.

For workload distribution and continuity it is preferable that the Secretary becomes the Governance Office Assistant from the University Secretariat. This adjustment is being sought due to a reshuffling of roles in the President's Office. It is supported by the Committee, the President, and the Governance Office Assistant

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee requests that the revised Terms of Reference be referred to the Senate Organization Committee.

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee Terms of Reference

Revised: April 23, 2007; January 23, 2009; February 26, 2010, May 14, 2010

Seven (7) days notice shall be given for all meetings except that a meeting may be held at any time without due notice if all members of the Committee are able to be present and/or consent thereto.

Quorum: Unless otherwise stated in the approved terms of reference, quorum for Senate and all Senate committees is a simple majority of all filled positions.

Composition

1. President
2. Five full-time faculty members elected by Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominations Committee, one of whom must be a full-time faculty member at the Orillia campus
3. One student member of the LUSU Executive, elected by Senate on the recommendation of LUSU
- 4. The Registrar**
- 5. One member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, elected by Senate on the recommendation of the Alumni Association Board Executive**

Terms of Office

1. ex officio
- 2. ~~two-year terms (renewable)~~ three-year terms (renewable)**
3. one-year term (renewable)
- 4. ex officio, non-voting**
- 5. one-year term (renewable)**

Organization

1. Chair: to be elected annually by the Committee from among those members holding academic appointment
- 2. Secretary: ~~Executive Secretary to the President~~ Governance Office Assistant**
- 3. Administrative Office: ~~Office of the President~~ University Secretariat**

Terms of Reference

The Committee annually solicits from the University Community names of suitable candidates - those who satisfy three (3) or more of the following criteria:

1. The candidate will be a person of provincial, national or international status.
2. A candidate will have demonstrated a distinctive and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in one or more fields of endeavour.
3. A candidate will have contributed either directly or indirectly to the welfare of humankind.
4. A candidate will have made a substantial contribution to the University and/or the region(s) in which its campuses are located (Northwestern Ontario and Central Ontario).

Active politicians will not be considered for an honorary degree.

The Committee carefully screens the nominees after which the names of acceptable recipients are forwarded to the Senate for final decision.

Revocation of Honorary Degrees

On recommendation of the Committee, the Senate may revoke an honorary degree if any of the following occurs, becomes known to the Committee, and it is satisfied that

- (a) a recipient has been convicted of a indictable offence; or
- (b) a recipient who, in the reasonable opinion of the Senate, after investigation, has obtained the Honorary Degree by fraud or deception; or
- (c) a recipient has been removed for misconduct by a properly constituted legal authority from any official register or roll of members of the profession to which s/he belongs