

VI SENATE HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

Approved by Senate: April 23, 2007; January 23, 2009; February 26, 2010, May 14, 2010, September 23, 2011; September 14, 2012; November 30, 2015

Quorum: Unless otherwise stated in the approved terms of reference, quorum shall consist of four voting members.

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.

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. Associate Vice-Provost Enrolment & 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. 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: Governance Officer – Senate
3. Administrative Office: University Secretariat

Terms of Reference

1. The Honorary Degrees Committee has the responsibility of recommending to Senate suitable persons for the award of honorary degrees from Lakehead University.
2. The Committee, in making nominations for honorary degrees, will consider merit based on the Lakehead University's "Nomination Selection Criteria".
3. The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee discusses and debates the qualifications of nominees and determines acceptable recipients that are forwarded to Senate at an In-Camera meeting ~~for final decision~~ **for approval to be added to the Senate Approved Honorary Degree Nominees List ("HD Nominees List")**.
4. In its recommendations the Committee will use its best efforts to provide a balanced representation between scholarly disciplines, service and other fields of accomplishment.
5. **Determine which, if any, individuals on the HD Nominees List will receive an Honorary Degree at upcoming Convocation ceremonies and the particular Honorary Degree they will receive.**
6. **The names of Honorary Degree Recipients for each calendar year will be brought to Senate for information at an In-Camera meeting after the offers have been accepted by the recipients and prior to a media release.**

Nomination Selection Criteria

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~~ **A** candidate will be a person of provincial, national or international status. ~~(Active politicians will not be considered for an honorary degree.)~~
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~~ **Simcoe County**).

Exclusions

- a) **Active members of Lakehead University, including faculty, staff, librarians, the Board of Governors and the Senate are not eligible for honorary degrees.**
- b) **Active politicians will not be considered for an honorary degree. For greater clarity, “active politicians” includes but is not limited to currently elected Indigenous, municipal, provincial or federal government officials.**
- c) **Honorary degrees are not granted *in absentia*.**
- d) **Nominations for posthumous honorary degrees will not be accepted.** *Exceptions may be made if the degree has been offered and accepted prior to the honorees death.

~~**Names placed on the Senate Approved Honorary Degree Nominees List shall remain there for a period of three years, after which time, if the nominee has not been selected or re-nominated, the committee secretary shall notify the committee and at the discretion of the committee the name can remain on the list for an additional two years or be deleted.~~

Revocation of Honorary Degrees **and/or Removal from the Senate Approved Honorary Degree Nominees List**

On recommendation of the Committee, the Senate may revoke an honorary degree **from an individual or remove an individual from the HD Nominees List** if any of the following occurs, becomes known to the Committee, and it is satisfied that:

- a) ~~a recipient~~ **the individual** has been convicted of a indictable offence; or
- b) ~~a recipient who~~ **the individual**, in the reasonable opinion of the Senate, after investigation, has obtained the Honorary Degree **or been added to the HD Nominees List** by fraud, or deception; or **any other inappropriate means; or**
- c) ~~a recipient~~ **the individual** 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.

~~**Names placed on the Senate Approved Honorary Degree~~ **HD Nominees List** shall remain there for a period of three-years, after which time, if the nominee has not been selected or re-nominated, the ~~e~~**C**ommittee secretary shall notify the ~~e~~**C**ommittee and at the discretion of the ~~e~~**C**ommittee the name can remain on the list for an additional two years or be deleted.