

HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE 2007-08 REPORT

Recommendation to the Senate

Working in concert with President Wagner, the Honorary Degree Committee recommended that six candidates be nominated for the receipt of honorary degrees in 2009 and beyond. Following recent practice, the Committee chose to submit these candidates as a pool of candidates, who upon approval by the Board of Trustees would join the existing pool of approved candidates from which to choose in future years. This affords the President flexibility in selecting an appropriate mix of individuals for honorary degrees as well as to schedule the honorees at an opportune time for them and the University. The Committee's recommendation was consistent with the Trustees' expectations that only 2-4 candidates would receive honorary degrees each year.

The Committee received more than sixty nominations, of whom approximately one-half were newly nominated in 2007. In its second meeting, the Committee formed consensus around the five recommended candidates, who are diverse in their areas of achievement and background. This diverse group is one more than the number recommended for 2006-07, in view of the fact that the pool had been somewhat depleted over the previous year.

Actions

The University Senate endorsed the Honorary Degree Committee recommendations, and these were forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Academic Affairs Committee accepted the recommendation of the Senate and forwarded the slate of nominees to the Board's Executive Committee.

Transition

Carol Hogue served her second year as Chair. Members who rotated off the Committee were replaced, with due consideration for the Committee's structure and representation across the university, while maintaining a manageable size. Members, affiliations, and terms are included in the accompanying table.