



The University of Vermont

Responsible Official: President

Effective Date: July 1, 2012

University Operating Procedure

Honorary Degrees; Commencement Speaker

Overview

The University annually considers nominations for Honorary Degree recipients and a Commencement Speaker. This University Operating Procedure sets forth the process and criteria applicable to the selection process.

Procedures

The University President shall annually appoint an advisory committee comprised of the presidents of the Faculty Senate, Graduate Student Senate, Student Government Association, and Staff Council; two faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate Executive Council; The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Foundation, Inc., chief executive officer or his/her designee; the Alumni Association President or his/her designee; and two administrators or staff members selected by the President. The President will also appoint a chair.

The President shall initiate the nominations process in September of each year, which shall proceed on a timetable that will allow for the timely selection of Honorary Degree recipients and a Commencement Speaker who will appear at the Commencement ceremony taking place in May of the year following the academic year in progress. The advisory committee will be asked to review diligently the nominations submitted and to recommend to the President 3-5 Honorary Degree candidates.

The President will consult with the advisory committee on the selection of Commencement Speaker whom may also be eligible to receive an honorary degree. The final decision of the Commencement Speaker is the President's.

The advisory committee will also be asked to review nominations for honorary degrees that may be awarded at ceremonies or special events other than Commencement.

Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for the award of an Honorary Degree, a nominee must be recognized as accomplished in at least one of three areas:

- Outstanding achievement or service at or for the benefit of the University of Vermont.
- Outstanding achievement or service in or for the benefit of the State of Vermont.
- Outstanding achievement or service in the nation or the world.

Of particular importance is to identify Honorary Degree candidates and a Commencement Speaker who reflect University values or have achieved distinction in endeavors aligned with institutional goals and strategic priorities.

Also to be considered is the following in evaluating nominees:

- Sustained and dedicated commitment to public life and service
- Significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge
- Significant contribution to the University's ability to achieve its mission

Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

University Vice President for Executive Operations

The President is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this procedure.

Forms

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Nominations Form

http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=honorarydegrees/nom_for_hon_degree.html

Timeline for Honorary Degree Process

http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=honorarydegrees/nom_for_hon_degree.html

Effective Date

Approved by the President: June 1, 2012

Endorsed by the Board of Trustee: May 19, 2012