



Item: AS: A-4

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 2.3
HONORARY DOCTORATES**

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend adoption of a policy for the awarding of honorary degrees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.004 requires each university board of trustees to establish policies and procedures for recommending candidates for honorary degrees. Early in the history of Florida Atlantic University, a presidential memorandum was issued that set forth guidelines for the awarding of honorary doctoral degrees. Over the years, these guidelines were utilized by a succession of selection committees to screen nominees for the honorary doctorate and recommend candidates to the President and Provost. The proposed University Policy 2.3 updates and expands the nomination and selection process.

Pursuant to the proposed policy, honorary doctorates are made on a highly selective basis and are normally given only for sustained achievement of lasting signification and in recognition of: (a) eminent achievement in scholarship; (b) outstanding achievements in the arts; and/or (c) high distinction in public service. Selection criteria are based on national and international standards of exceptional achievements that are primarily intellectual in nature. Consideration may also be given to those individuals who have contributed in significant ways to the advancement of disciplines or programs at the University and/or to the development of the state and region.

Elected or appointed public officials to whom the University is directly or indirectly answerable and current employees of the University and the State University System are ineligible for such an award. In no event shall the recipient of an honorary doctorate represent the award as an earned degree or academic credential of any kind. Honorary doctorates will be awarded at commencement ceremonies only.

Nominations may be made by any member of the University community or by the general public and directed to the Office of the President. If the President and Provost deem the nomination meritorious, it will be forwarded to the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee for review and recommendation. Final decisions on honorary doctorates shall be made by the President and Provost.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Upon Board approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.



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| SUBJECT: Honorary Doctorates | Effective Date: | Policy Number: 2.3 | |
| | Supersedes: New | Page 1 | Of 2 |
| | Responsible Authority: University President | | |

APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY:

This policy shall be applied through the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost, in coordination with the Honors and Awards Committee of the University Faculty Senate.

POLICY STATEMENT:

In addition to conferring earned baccalaureate and graduate degrees, from time to time Florida Atlantic University awards honorary doctorates to persons of high achievement. These awards are made on a highly selective basis. Honorary degrees are normally given only for sustained achievement of lasting significance, and they recognize:

1. Eminent achievement in scholarship;
2. Outstanding achievements in the arts; and/or
3. High distinction in public service.

Selection criteria are based on national and international standards of exceptional achievements that are primarily intellectual in nature. Consideration may also be given to individuals who have contributed in significant ways to the advancement of disciplines or programs at FAU and/or to the development of the state and region. Elected or appointed public officials to whom the University is directly or indirectly answerable are ineligible, as are current employees of Florida Atlantic University and the Florida State University System. In no instance will the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Florida Atlantic University represent the award as being an earned doctorate or an earned academic credential of any kind. This award does not entitle the recipient to use the title of "Dr." or append "Ph.D." or any other earned degree designation after his/her name. Inappropriate use of the award could result in its withdrawal by action of the President

and Provost, with the input of the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee.

Florida Atlantic University may award one or more honorary doctorates to approved recipients during commencement ceremonies only. They will not be awarded at any other time or in any other setting. Recipients must attend the ceremonies in person to receive the award, and they will be expected to deliver brief remarks to the graduating class. In all instances, the degree will be called the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

PROCEDURES:

Nominations may be made by any member of the University community or by the general public. The University reserves the right to conduct full background checks of nominees and to factor those findings into the evaluation process. Letters of nomination with appropriate background materials such as resumes, newspaper clippings and letters of support should be directed to the Office of the President, who will share the nomination with the Provost. If the President and the Provost deem the nomination meritorious, it will be forwarded to the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee for review. The recommendation of the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee shall be forwarded to the President and the Provost for their final determination.

Nominations may be made at any time during the calendar year. The President will designate the commencement ceremony at which each successful candidate will be invited to receive the award. The process of contacting the candidate and arranging for his or her attendance at a specified commencement ceremony will be handled by the Office of the President.

INITIATING AUTHORITY: Senior Vice President, University Communications and Marketing

POLICY APPROVAL
(For use by the Office of the President)

Policy Number: 2.3

Initiating Authority

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____

*Policies and Procedures
Review Committee Chair*

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____

President

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____

Board of Trustees Chair

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____
