



Item: Vb. AS: A-1

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

SUBJECT: HONORARY DOCTORATE POLICY

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve adoption of a policy for the awarding of honorary degrees requiring Board of Trustees approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A proposed honorary doctorate policy was recently brought before the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. At that time, it was suggested that the full Board be added as the final authority on the granting of honorary doctorates. The policy now presented includes the Board as the final authority in the approval process.

As previously noted, 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. If the President and the Provost desire to continue the nominee forward, under the policy now proposed, the nomination will be presented to this Board for final determination.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Upon Board approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

Supporting Documentation: Proposed Revised Honorary Doctorate Policy

Presented by: Dr. John Pritchett, Provost

Elizabeth F. Rubin, Associate General Counsel

Phone: 561-297-3007



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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 [Board of](#)

~~Trustees, President and Provost~~, with the input of the President, Provost and 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. If the President and the Provost desire to continue the nominee forward, it will be presented to the Board of Trustees 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: _____
