Texas A&M University-San Antonio

11.07.99.O1 Awarding Honorary Degrees
Approved: July 11, 2011
Reviewed: September, 2012
Next Scheduled Review: September, 2014

Reason for Rule

The Texas A&M University System Policy 11.07 Granting of Honorary Degrees provides guidelines for the granting of honorary degrees. This Texas A&M University-San Antonio Rule on granting honorary degrees governs the University in matters not detailed in system policy. It is necessary to have a method for recommending an individual for an honorary degree, for reviewing the individual’s accomplishments, and for involving faculty, staff, and administrators in the decision-making process.

Official Rule

1. GENERAL

1.1. Texas A&M University-San Antonio selectively and judiciously awards the honorary doctorate of letters degree to individuals of exceptional academic, scholarly, artistic and/or philanthropic accomplishment in order to bring honor and recognition to Texas A&M University-San Antonio and to identify persons whose accomplishments and service to humanity can be considered exemplary. Professional associations that are created by the process of awarding of an honorary degree are a means of aiding the University community in setting and achieving its mission. The Executive Team will receive all nominations. Candidate nominations that are not selected in any particular year but are otherwise deemed meritorious will remain eligible for consideration for three years from the date of nomination.

2. CRITERIA

2.1. Texas A&M University-San Antonio awards honorary doctorate degrees principally to individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the arts, education, letters, science, technology, or service to humanity. An honorary doctorate also may be awarded to an individual from industry, government, communications, education, business, social services, or another public arena who has distinguished himself or herself through nationally or internationally significant contributions.
3. RESTRICTIONS

3.1. Honorary doctorates recognize an individual, not an office or position. So far as possible, there will be an effort to ensure that the persons honored represent a variety of fields of endeavor. No more than two honorary degrees will be approved in any one fiscal year. Normally, honorary degrees will be awarded during spring or fall commencements, and the recipient must be present to receive the award.

3.2. Honorary doctorates are not awarded:

3.2.1. in absentia

3.2.2. posthumously

3.2.3. to current employees of the University

3.2.4. to individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over the University

3.2.5. in consideration solely based on any past, present, or future gift or other benefaction to the University

4. SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF RECIPIENTS

4.1. Nominations and supporting documents shall be reviewed by the Executive Team. The Executive Team shall recommend nominees for further consideration.

4.2. The President, in consultation with the Provost, shall present his/her choice of approved nominees, through the Chancellor, to the Board of Regents.

4.3. Honorary doctorate degrees shall be awarded only to those nominees approved by the President and the Board of Regents. The names will be made public with the appropriate graduation ceremony announcement.

4.4. Five years from the adoption of this rule the Executive Team shall review the list of recipients of honorary doctorates, and the functioning of the selection and approval process to determine whether the practice of awarding honorary doctorates at Texas A&M University-San Antonio shall continue.

5. TIMELINE

5.1. The deadlines for submitting recommendations to the Executive Team are as follows:

5.1.1. By the 1st business day in January for May commencement; and

5.1.2. By the 1st business day in August for December commencement.
5.2. Recommendations by the Executive Team will be forwarded to the President, along with all supporting documentation, by the following deadlines:

5.2.1. By February 20th (or next business day) for May commencement; and

5.2.2. By the first business day in September for December commencement

6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

6.1. Under special circumstances, exceptions to this Rule will be considered.

Related Policy

System Policy 11.07 Granting of Honorary Degrees

Contact Office

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