

POLICY ON HONORARY DEGREES

The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall review and evaluate nominations for honorary degrees received by the President. Consistent with CSU policy, the committee, in conjunction with the President, established the following procedures relating to availability, criteria, and nominations for honorary degrees.

The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be composed of the following: the Chair of the Academic Senate and/or designee(s), the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Development.

The criteria and purposes as established by the CSU are as follows:

- I. Purposes for Which Honorary Degrees May Be Conferred
 - A. To recognize excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are embodied the objectives and ideals of The California State University.
 - B. To honor meritorious and outstanding service to The California State University, collectively, or to its campuses, individually; to the State of California; to the United States; or to humanity at large.
 - C. To recognize men and women whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of The California State University's aspirations for its diverse student body.

- II. **Criteria for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees**
 - A. Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in all parts of the world. Honorary degrees awarded should represent an appropriate balance between local and non-local, and academic and non-academic recipients, and should represent a wide diversity of fields of endeavor.
 - B. Nominations for honorary degrees must be distinguished in the respective fields, and the eminence of persons nominated must be widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education, and with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields.
 - C. Service or benefaction to the University do not in themselves justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, nothing in these criteria shall preclude nominees who are in political life, or who are benefactors of The California State University. The committee has developed a process whereby nominations for an honorary degree can be submitted. The nomination should be one page in length and should emphasize the contributions of the candidates to California State University, Fresno as well as those listed in the criteria. The degree will be awarded at Commencement in May if a candidate is selected.

III. Procedures for Nominations and Selection

- A. Nominations can be made by anyone.
- B. Nominations must be submitted in writing and be no more than one page in length.
- C. The deadline is announced each year.
- D. The Honorary Degree Committee will review and choose the top one to three candidates for further review.
- E. For those candidates who are selected, further documentation will be needed.
- F. Recommendations will be made to the President by the committee.
- G. The final selection will be made by the Board of Trustees during its March meeting.

The committee encourages nominations of individuals who meet the above criteria and who would bring recognition to themselves and to our campus.

Recommended by the Academic Senate	May 1992
Approved by the President	June 1992
Amended	January 4, 2002