Motion to recommend the nomination of Norman DeValois Dicks for an honorary Doctorate degree to be awarded at the May 2014 commencement ceremony. Martin Wurm (Economics), Educational Policies Committee. ACTION ITEM.

Resolved, that the faculty recommend to President Krise the nomination of former congressman Norman DeValois Dicks for a Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of Norman Dicks’ extraordinary efforts for the restoration and preservation of the environment and communities of the Puget Sound area as summarized in attachment E.

Nomination of former U.S. Congressman Norman DeValois Dicks for a Doctorate of Humane Letters

The Faculty Handbook states that the objective of awarding an honorary doctorate degree “is to recognize worthy individuals whose lives and work best exemplify and support the religious and educational ideals which the university nurtures.” The criteria for the award of an honorary degree are further specified as follows: “Nominees must not merely have accomplished a job competently but must have excelled through unusual success in or contribution to their field, through innovation or research which has caused their profession to advance, or through extraordinary achievement which has enabled people to live more humanely.”

In recognition of Norman Dicks' efforts for the restoration and preservation of the environment and the communities of the Puget Sound, the Educational Policy Committee – after consultation with the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee – recommends the title of “Doctor of Humane Letters” to be awarded to Norman Dicks. It is the committee’s view that this degree provides the best fit to specifically honor his extraordinary contributions to enable individuals to live more humanely.

The full nomination case statement is available at the Provost’s website under: https://www.plu.edu/provost/widgets/documents-forms/items/protected/Case%20Statement%20for%20Norm%20Dicks%20final.pdf

Environmental contributions:

- Secured federal funding for numerous environmental projects such as the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, resulting in the cleanup of the Hood Canal, the Elwha River and other local waterways and the cleanup of several superfund sites in the Tacoma area.
- Played a pivotal role for the establishment of several conservation trusts such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) and the national Land, Conservation, Preservation, and Infrastructure Improvement (LCPII) Fund. The local impact of these efforts helped in saving more than 126,000 acres of wilderness of the Olympic National Forest and 19 rivers.
- Was a key player in the establishment of several wilderness areas, including the Clearwater Wilderness Area adjacent to Mount Rainier National Park.
- Several environmental protection agencies, such as the Defenders of Wildlife, the Natural Resource Defense Council or the Wilderness Society, have bestowed high awards and/or praised Norman Dicks for his commitment to protection of the Puget Sound area.
Was instrumental in a $162 million settlement between the federal government and the Puyallup Nation over Puyallup land claims.

Other accomplishments:

- Received several high awards as expert on defense and national security issues in Congress and its committees
- Norman Dicks and his office were extremely helpful to PLU throughout his career. One example was the instrumental role he played in securing federal funding for the Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) program now located in the Morken Center.

Biographical Information

Date of Birth and Birthplace
December 16, 1940; Bremerton, Washington

Family
Married, two children, three grandchildren

Educational Background
B.A., Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, 1963
J.D., University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Wash., 1968

Professional Career
- Staff Assistant to United States Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, 1968-76;
- Member of Congress, Washington’s 6th District, 1977-2013;

Church Affiliation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Organizations
Congressional Advisory Council, Henry M. Jackson Foundation; Board Member, Boys and Girls Club; Member, Council on Foreign Relations; Member, District of Columbia Bar Association; Honorary Member, Kiwanis Club; Board of Advisers, National Bureau of Asian Research; Member, Navy League of the United States; Member, Puget Sound Naval Bases Association; Honorary Member, Rotary Club; Board of Visitors, United States Air Force Academy; Member, Washington State Bar Association; Co-chair on US Congressional International Conservation Caucus; Long Live the Kings, an ambassador to a new US/Canada partnership, representing the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project, promoting education on salmon and steelhead in saltwater.