Motion to create the Committee on Honorary Degrees – Pauline Shanks Kaurin (Philosophy), Governance Committee. ACTION ITEM.

Whereas, the Faculty Handbook calls for the president to convene an ad hoc university awards committee to consider nominations for honorary degrees;

Whereas, the ad hoc university awards committee has ongoing business and meets consistently throughout the academic year; and

Whereas, the policies and procedures of the ad hoc university awards committee require revision for clarification and consistency with practice;

Resolved, that the Faculty Assembly removes the Honorary Degrees section from the Faculty Handbook (Section III, Part VII, Section 1, pp. 74-75, 8th edition) and establishes the University Committee on Honorary Degrees, a university standing committee whose general purpose is to solicit and review nominations for honorary degrees. The required legislation, including the membership and specific duties, are included as Attachment C.

To be inserted in Section II Aspects of Faculty Organization, Part VIII (p. 48, 8th edition)

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair of the faculty (chair), the vice-chair of the faculty, the elected faculty representative to the Board of Regents, one representative from the Educational Policies Committee, two administrative staff appointed by the president, and one regent appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents.

ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP:

Provost (or designate) and president (or designate). Consistent with Article IV, Section 4, Subsection B, 7 and 8 of the Faculty Bylaws, advisory members shall have the same rights and privileges as any other member of the committee except the right to make motions and to vote.

GENERAL PURPOSE:

To solicit and review nominations for honorary degrees; to prepare case statements for meritorious nominations; and to refer such nominations to the Educational Policies Committee and the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee.

The awarding of an honorary doctorate is an event of special significance to the university. By awarding such a degree, the university strives to accomplish two objectives. The first is to recognize worthy individuals whose lives and work advance the mission of the university. The second is to promote the reputation of the university as an institution which recognizes and encourages such excellence.
Policies

1. By awarding honorary degrees, the university strives to recognize significant and sustained accomplishment, achievement, and dedication to scholarly excellence, to higher education, to religious service, to professional fields, to the creative arts, or to public service.

2. Criteria for honorary degrees are, for the most part, qualitative rather than quantitative. 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, through extraordinary achievement which has enabled people to live more humanely, or through exemplary efforts to advance the mission of the university. The ethical manner in which these attainments have been reached is an important factor as well.

3. Honorary degrees may be awarded in recognition either of currently outstanding achievements or of significant accomplishments over a lengthy career of service.

SPECIFIC DUTIES:

Procedures

To implement collaborative and collegial procedures for awarding honorary degrees, the faculty and the Board of Regents have agreed upon the following:

1. Any member of the PLU community can make a nomination at any time. The nomination for an honorary degree is submitted to the president. The nomination should include, at minimum, a letter of support from the nominator including a biography of the candidate and a detailed description of his/her accomplishments relative to criteria noted above.

2. The president will notify the University Committee on Honorary Degrees of any nominations that are received. The committee will:

   a. Request additional information to fully examine the merit of the case and may consult members of the community who have expertise in the appropriate area;
   b. Consider the merit of the nomination;
   c. Write a case statement in conformity with the policies articulated above; and
   d. Notify the nominator that the nomination is being moved forward in the process, or, reasons as to why the committee will not recommend it for further consideration.

3. Recommended nominations will then be referred to both the Educational Policies Committee and the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee. A faculty representative to the Board of Regents (chair of the faculty, vice-chair, or elected representative) will make the presentation to both committees. The determination of the specific degree will be made by the Educational Policies Committee.
4. The Educational Policies Committee, after consultation with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents, will recommend the nomination to the Faculty Assembly.

5. The Faculty Assembly will make its recommendation to the president.

6. Upon approval of the president, the nomination will be presented to the Board of Regents at the next meeting.

7. Upon approval of the board, the degree candidate will be notified and the award will be presented at an appropriate time.

8. To undergird the spirit of collaboration exhibited in steps 2 and 3 of these procedures, the faculty and the Board of Regents will maintain open communication and mutual reporting through their respective officers in the event that a degree candidacy is challenged. If the faculty rejects a nominee at step 5, the chair and the vice-chair of the faculty will report to and confer with the Board of Regents through its appropriate representatives, regarding the reasons for such action. If the board rejects a nominee at step 6 or 7, the officers of the board (or their designates) will report to and confer with the chair and the vice-chair of the faculty regarding the reasons for such action. The chair and the vice-chair will then confer with the Educational Policies Committee and those who initiated the nomination to determine if any further action is warranted.

To be deleted from Section III Academic Policies, Procedures, and Services, Part VII, Section 1, (p. 74-75, 8th edition)

C. Honorary Degrees
   1. Introduction
      The awarding of an honorary doctorate is an event of special significance to the university. By awarding such a degree, the university strives to accomplish two objectives. The first is to recognize worthy individuals whose lives and work best exemplify and support the religious and educational ideals which the university nurtures. The second is to promote the reputation of the university as an institution which recognizes and encourages such excellence.
   2. Policies
      a. By awarding honorary degrees, the university strives to recognize significant and sustained accomplishment, achievement, and dedication to scholarly excellence, to higher education, to the Christian church, to religious service, to professional fields, to the creative arts, or to public service.
      b. Criteria for honorary degrees are, for the most part, qualitative rather than quantitative. 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. The ethical manner in which these attainments have been reached is an important factor as well.
e. Honorary degrees may be awarded in recognition either of currently outstanding achievements or of significant accomplishments over a lengthy career of service.

3. Procedures
To implement collaborative and collegial procedures for awarding honorary degrees, the faculty and the Board of Regents have agreed upon the following:

4. The nomination for an honorary degree is submitted to the president.

5. The president will convene an ad hoc university awards committee comprised of the chair of the faculty, the vice-chair of the faculty, the elected faculty representative to the Board of Regents, one representative from the Educational Policies Committee, two administrative staff, and one regent.

a. The university awards committee will:
   i. Consider the nomination and notify the nominator;
   ii. Request additional information if required;
   iii. Determine its recommendation; and
   iv. Write a case statement in conformity with the policies articulated above.

6. Recommended nominations will then be referred to both the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee and the Educational Policies Committee. A faculty representative to the Board of Regents (chair of the faculty, vice-chair, or elected representative) will make the presentation to both committees. The determination of the specific degree will be made by the Educational Policies Committee.

7. The Educational Policies Committee, after consultation with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents, will recommend the nomination to the Faculty Assembly.

8. The Faculty Assembly will make its recommendation to the president.

9. Upon approval of the president, the nomination will be presented to the Board of Regents at the next meeting.

10. Upon approval of the board, the degree candidate will be notified and the award will be presented at an appropriate time.

11. To undergird the spirit of collaboration exhibited in steps 2 and 3 of these procedures, the faculty and the Board of Regents will maintain open communication and mutual reporting through their respective officers in the event that a degree candidacy is challenged. If the faculty rejects a nominee at step 5, the chair and the vice-chair of the faculty will report to and confer with the Board of Regents through its appropriate representatives, regarding the reasons for such action. If the board rejects a nominee at step 6 or 7, the officers of the board (or their designates) will report to and confer with the chair and the vice-chair of the faculty regarding the reasons for such action. The chair and the vice-chair will then confer with the Educational Policies Committee and those who initiated the nomination to determine if any further action is warranted.