HONORARY DEGREES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

No: S-30

Date: [New approval date], 2015

April 8, 1988, Reg. Res. 4035
(Original, April 7, 1972, Regent Resolution 140)

Authority: __ U.W. System Unclassified Personnel Guideline #11 and
________ ________ Regent Policy Document 4-6 Resolutions 4035–Rev.

Responsible Party: UWM Honorary Degree Committee

POLICY STATEMENT

UW System policy authorizes UWM Consistent with national practice (and the maturation which has occurred since merger within the University of Wisconsin System), the Board of Regents now extends to the eleven regional universities the authority to bestow honorary doctoral degrees on individuals of exceptional accomplishment and distinction who have made significant contributions to the university, region, state or nation; or within their field of endeavor. This policy sets forth the guidelines that UWM follows in awarding such degrees.

UWM is not obligated to award honorary degrees under this policy. Each of the universities may award such honorary degrees each year beginning with the 1988-89 academic year, subsequent to approval by the Board of Regents, of each institution’s written standards, criteria, and procedures for awarding honorary degrees. Existing or revised policies and procedures must now be submitted for board approval. No institution is obligated to award honorary degrees under this policy.

Honorary degree designations shall be limited to the following: A) Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), B) Doctor of Science (Sc.D.), C) Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), and D) Doctor of Humanities (D.H.), with the exception that the University of Wisconsin—Stout may grant an honorary Doctor of Vocational Education (D.V.E.). As doctoral institutions, U.W. Madison and U.W.-Milwaukee are authorized to award occasional highly specialized degrees as best reflect the recipient’s accomplishments. (See examples of titles of doctorates previously awarded at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/faculty/standing/hon/upload/Honorary-Degrees-Awarded-by-UWM.pdf)
GUIDELINES

UWM has designated a standing committee, called the Each university shall have an Honorary Degree Committee, for which the function is to consider and recommend candidates for honorary degrees consistent with procedures, policies and criteria developed at each institution and approved by the chancellor and the Board of Regents. The University of Wisconsin System president and the UWM eChancellor, or their designees, of the institution shall be ex-officio members of these committees. UWM’s Honorary Degrees Committee will devote particular attention to the identification of women and minority candidates for consideration for honorary degrees. At least one-half of those presented as candidates for honorary degrees should have some connection with the University System, the City or the State.

Candidates who are recommended by UWM’s Honorary Degree Committee must be approved by UWM’s Chancellor and the Board of Regents. Board of Regent approval must be obtained at least two months prior to the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred. For a Spring commencement the nominations must be received for first reading by the Board of Regents in for their February meeting, and for a Winter commencement they must be received not later than the October Board of Regents meeting.

As a matter of policy, the Board of Regents will limits to one the number of honorary degrees any individual may receive from the UW System, therefore In order to avoid duplication, the chairpersons of UWM’s Honorary Degrees Committee must clear nominees with the UW System Office of Academic Affairs prior to determination of UWM’s final selections and submission to the Board of Regents; the several committees shall develop an informal information exchange protocol to avoid duplication of nominees.

Particular attention should be devoted to the identification of women and minority candidates for consideration for honorary degrees.

Each eChancellor, conjointly with the UW System president, will recommend UWM’s nominees to the Board of Regents.

All activities related to the nomination of candidates, the review of documentation supporting each nominee, and recommendations to the Board of Regents board must be conducted with a confidentiality appropriate to personnel matters.

Upon bBoard of Regents approval of the institutional nominees for an honorary doctorates, the eChancellor will invites the candidates to attend the commencement convocation at which the award is to be conferred. Honorary degrees are not awarded in absentia. Recipients will receive no honoraria, but UWM shall assume all expenses associated with the recipient’s participation in the commencement.

Honorary degree designations shall include the following:
The occasional highly specialized doctoral degrees as best reflect the recipient's accomplishments. (See examples of titles of doctorates previously awarded at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/faculty/standing/hon/upload/Honorary-Degrees-Awarded-by-UWM.pdf)

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To insulate the honorary degree from partisanship, to protect the award from possible conflicts and to protect nominees from possible compromising positions, the following three categories of individuals are ineligible for an honorary degree from UWM-an institution of the University of Wisconsin System:

a(1)— Public Officials and Political Appointees (Included are meaning serving members of the Wisconsin Legislature and the Wisconsin congressional delegation; elected and appointed officials; and all members of the state judiciary).

b)—Regents

(2)

b)—Regents

Included are meaning serving members of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents), and

(3)

e)—University of Wisconsin System Employees (meaning Included are currently employed faculty or staff at each university and in UW System Administration).
Persons in any of these three categories could be eligible for consideration two years or more after they have vacated office or terminated employment. However, former emeritus faculty are not eligible for honorary degrees unless they have achieved distinction in a second career beyond their work at their university following retirement (i.e. receiving the Nobel Prize after leaving the institution).

In awarding honorary degrees, the University of Wisconsin System does not assume any legal obligations. Recipients receive no honoraria, but the institution shall assume all expenses associated with the recipients’ participation in the commencement.