

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Policy and Procedures Manual

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Policy 322.1 - Honorary Degree
Effective January 20, 2005; Issued February 1, 2005

I. Board Policy:

- A. An honorary doctoral degree may be awarded by any campus of the Montana university system (MUS) if the campus has authority to award earned baccalaureate degrees.
- B. The honorary doctoral degree will be awarded by the board of regents on the basis of a recommendation from:
 - 1. the commissioner of higher education;
 - 2. the president of The University of Montana-Missoula or Montana State University-Bozeman; and
 - 3. the chancellor of one of the other four baccalaureate-granting institutions, when the degree originates from that campus.
- C. No other campus of the MUS, or any community college under the jurisdiction of the board of regents of higher education, has the authority to award honorary degrees.

II. Procedures:

- A. An honorary degree shall be conferred by a campus of the MUS only after it has been approved by the board of regents upon recommendation of the commissioner, one of the presidents, and the appropriate chancellor.
- B. In order to avoid any embarrassment, no suggestion shall be made to any person nominated for an honorary degree until the board of regents has taken action to approve the degree.
- C. No honorary degree shall be conferred upon a current employee of the MUS.
- D. In general, the recognized honorary degrees of doctor of laws (LL.D.), doctor of letters (Litt.D.), doctor of science (Sc.D.) and doctor of humane Letters (L.H.D.) will be used to designate the degree, although appropriately titled degrees may be used to recognize achievement in specific professions.
- E. Campuses planning to award honorary degrees shall develop written procedures which must be approved by the appropriate president.
- F. If the MUS awards an honorary degree on behalf of the system and at the initiative of the commissioner of higher education, the degree will be announced and the citation read during commencement ceremonies on all campuses, and the regents will designate the campus where the formal presentation will take place. If the award is made on the basis of a recommendation from one of the presidents, or a chancellor of a campus, then the formal presentation will take place on the campus awarding the degree and the degree will be announced and the citation read at that campus only.
- G. Each of the following criteria will be used in evaluating candidates for a MUS honorary degree:
 - 1. the candidate should have an association with the State of Montana. This association may be by virtue of birth, of residence, of education, of service to the state, the MUS or one of the campuses of the system.
 - 2. the candidate must have achieved a level of distinction which would merit comparable recognition in his or her profession or area of excellence.
 - 3. the renown of the candidate should reflect favorably on the MUS and the State of Montana.

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History:

State Board of Higher Education Minutes, September 10, 1934 and April 10, 1950 (Rescinded); Item 26-014-R0380, Honorary degrees, Montana University System, March 10, 1980, as revised April 13, 1981, July 31, 1981, October 28, 1983, November 18, 1999 (Item 104-103-R0999), and January 20, 2005 (Item 126-101-R0105).