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5.701 Honorary Degree Policy

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Type of Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campus <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Department/Unit</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Interim		Honorary Degree Policy Policy 5.701	
Academic Policies		Effective date: November 1, 2016	
Policy History:	Approved by:	Resolution #	Date
	Board of Governors	6.12.10:08	June 12, 2010
Revised:	Board of Governors	6.8.12:7	June 8, 2012
			October 27, 2016
Responsible Office	Responsible Administrator:	Contact information	Applies to:
Board of Governors	Academic Affairs Committee	937-769-1345	University and all Campuses

I. Introduction

An honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Antioch University can confer upon a person of exceptional distinction. Candidates for the honorary doctorate must demonstrate the highest levels of excellence in scholarship, the professions, public or community service, or creative arts. Equally high expectation is placed on their personal integrity and concern for the public good. These individuals of outstanding accomplishment inspire and serve as role models for students, faculty, administrators, and alumni to respect and emulate. Honorary degrees are University degrees and may only be awarded by the Antioch University Board of Governors.

II. Definitions

An **honorary degree** is an honorific academic degree for which the University has waived the usual academic requirements such as matriculation, residency, study, and the passing of examinations. The degree is typically a doctorate and may be awarded to someone who has no prior connection with the academic institution. Nominations of candidates from diverse backgrounds, and whose own accomplishments might serve to highlight areas in which Antioch has developed exceptional strength, are particularly welcomed.

It is customary within American higher education that universities award the *HonD* instead of the usual *PhD* for all honorary degrees. The honorary degree awarded by Antioch University would be one of the following:

Acronym	HONORARY DEGREE
<i>Hon. D.A.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Arts
<i>Hon. D.B.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Business
<i>Hon. D.F.A.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts
<i>Hon. D.H.L.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters
<i>Hon. Litt. D.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Letters
<i>Hon. D.Sci</i>	Honorary Doctorate of Science
<i>Hon. D. Univ.</i>	Honorary Doctorate of the University

III. Criteria and Eligibility

An honorary degree is awarded to recognize an individual for extraordinary accomplishments that have ongoing and significant importance, who have demonstrated distinguished achievement in an activity related to Antioch University’s mission of fostering innovation and advancing social, economic, and environmental justice, and have notably demonstrated these criteria through actions and accomplishments. A qualifying candidate should have a record of contributing personally to advancing improvements in the human condition and personify the highest ideals of the University. For a candidate within an academic setting, the contributions should have clearly exceeded the expected high standards of teaching, learning, and research. For a candidate from a non-academic setting, the contributions should add significantly to the well-being of society or to greatly further the University’s mission of fostering lasting democratic and social change. The faculty and the community should regard the bestowing of an honorary degree as evidence of genuine accomplishment and distinction.

There is no objection to conferring an honorary degree on alumni provided they meet the criteria identified above. However, a degree should not be given to a current student, an individual presently employed by the University, or any sitting member of the Board of Governors. Exceptions may be made in the case of a retiring Governor. Substantive service to the University or a particular campus is not sufficient justification for an honorary degree if the individual does not meet the other criteria for honorary degrees. The University should be careful that the awarding of a degree not be politically or financially motivated, or appear to be so. Honorary degrees are generally not awarded in absentia or posthumously, unless a recipient dies after notification of selection.

IV. Nomination, Process, and Award

Nomination

A. Nominations for an honorary degree may come from the following sources: (a) any member of the Board of Governors; (b) the Chancellor; (d) a campus Provost; or (e) any faculty, staff, student, or alumni. Nominations originating on a campus should be submitted with the consent of the respective campus Provost.

B. The nomination submission must include a clear and convincing statement regarding the relevance and/or appropriateness of the nominee, directly addressing the purposes and criteria for the honorary degree. Additional suggested elements of the nominating portfolio include a curriculum vitae or resume, reviews or articles about the nominee's work, list of major awards, and any other relevant material that fortifies the appropriateness of the nomination. The Board requires that confidentiality be maintained throughout the procedure as a matter of professional courtesy to a candidate. A nominee should not be informed that his or her name has been put forward; not all excellent candidates can be recognized, and knowledge of a failed nomination can be embarrassing and harmful. Further, the nominator should not solicit letters of support on behalf of the nominee from people outside the University. Official notification of Antioch's wish to confer an honorary degree is made by the Chancellor on behalf of the Board of Governors. Nominations must be submitted on a standard form for this purpose (Form 5.701:1, Nomination for Honorary Degree).

Process

C. Honorary degree nominations shall be submitted to the Chancellor nine (9) months in advance of the commencement ceremony or comparable event at which the degree is to be awarded. This allows for full consideration of the candidate, time for the invitation to be delivered and time for the candidate to accept and make arrangements to attend the event at which he/she is to be awarded the degree.

D. The Chancellor shall submit all nominations to the Honorary Degree Review and Nominating Committee, (the "Committee"), established by the Chancellor. The Committee shall include the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, at least one faculty member, and other appropriate constituents. For each nomination, the Committee shall conduct an independent review and evaluation, performing background checks and other due diligence before the nomination is forwarded to the Board of Governors for final approval. The review and recommendation process should be completed within three (3) months of receipt of submission.

E. The vetted nomination for an honorary degree will be recommended by the Committee to the Board of Governors using a standard form for this purpose, (Form 5.701:2, Recommendation for Honorary Degree). The recommendation shall include the specific degree to be awarded along with a summary of the biographical and other information upon which the recommendation is based.

F. If the Board of Governors approves the recommendation, the Chancellor will be authorized and directed to issue an invitation to the candidate. The Board of Governors, in consultation with the Chancellor or appropriate Provost, shall determine at which event the honorary degree is to be awarded. Honorary degrees may only be awarded at commencement ceremonies, or equally significant events

Award

G. The honorary degree shall be presented personally by the Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors. An honorary degree may not be accepted in *absentia* or posthumously, unless a recipient dies after notification or selection.

H. The Chancellor or his/her designee shall manage all arrangements for the honoree, including providing the diploma and the academic hood. The Chair of the Board of Governors, the Chancellor, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs shall execute all relevant documents on behalf of the University including the diploma.

Forms Cross Reference

Nomination for Honorary Degree Form	Form 5.701:1
Honorary Degree Review and Nominating Committee Recommendation Form	Form 5.701:2