

Guidelines for Honorary Degree Nominations at Laurentian University

Rationale

The awarding of honorary degrees is an important feature of Laurentian's convocation and is meant to honour both the individual and the University as well as inspire our graduates, their families and guests.

The selection of honorary degree recipients is by nature a confidential process. Nominees should not be informed that they are under consideration. In addition, apart from the public announcement by the University of honorary degree recipients for a particular Convocation, the disposition of any recommendation shall not be disclosed in order to respect the nominee and the integrity of the process.

The President is responsible for communicating with all individuals to be awarded degrees once approved by Senate and the Board of Governors.

Eligibility

Priorities are determined by the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees and final decision is made by Senate and the Board of Governors. The committee is particularly interested in candidates who have not been similarly honoured by other universities in the past. Also, consideration of the bilingual and multicultural nature of the university is an important aspect in choice of candidates. The following guidelines apply:

1. Honorary degrees should not, except in exceptional circumstances, be awarded posthumously;
2. Honorary degrees should not, except in exceptional circumstances, be awarded in absentia;
3. Honorary degrees should not be awarded to Laurentian University personnel or active politicians;
4. At the level of the Honorary Degree Committee, unanimity among those present is required (abstentions are not counted).

While the Committee is responsible for finding the best possible candidates in a given year and for ensuring a balance across various disciplines and groups over a period of time, the following categories are emphasized:

1. People who have made outstanding contributions to the life of Sudbury and/or the area served by Laurentian University;
2. People who have made outstanding contributions to intellectual advancements in disciplines offered at Laurentian University;
3. People who have made outstanding contributions in fields of Canadian and/or international life.

In the final analysis, the selection of honorary degree recipients at Laurentian should be guided by the outstanding nature of each candidate's achievement. However, another important consideration is "originality". Often, several universities confer honorary degrees on the same person. By recognizing individuals who are about to become known in their field or discipline, the significance of the individual's contribution is underlined and the importance of a Laurentian Honorary Degree emphasized.

Degrees awarded

The degree awarded should be appropriate to the recognized contribution of the recipient. Degrees awarded in the past at Laurentian University have included the following: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Music, Doctor of Business Administration and Doctor of Social Work. The university, however, is not necessarily restricted to these.

Selection process

The Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees solicits recommendations for candidates for an honorary degree on an on-going basis. The Committee meets each year in the Fall to review nominations and to make its recommendation to Senate and the Board of Governors.

It is extremely important that the work of the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees be carried out with the highest level of confidentiality. Therefore, the Committee meets in camera and all of its discussions and deliberations are considered confidential. Only members of the Committee and the committee's secretary or secretaries may attend meetings of the Committee.

The Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees consists of the following:

- The President
- The Heads of the Federated Universities
- Two members of the Board of Governors
- One member of the LU Alumni Association
- Four faculty members, named by Senate
- Two students, named by Senate

Submission of nominations

- Nominators must complete the honorary degrees nomination form
- Nominations must contain the following to be eligible:
 - a cover letter
 - a strong statement outlining your rationale for recommending the candidate
 - extensive background information on the candidate, including:
 - career highlights
 - education
 - honours received, including honorary degrees
 - links with Laurentian University and Northeastern Ontario
 - contributions to Laurentian University, Sudbury and Northeastern Ontario
 - contributions in fields of Canadian and/or international life
 - contributions in intellectual advancements in disciplines offered at Laurentian University
 - contact information on the candidate
 - a curriculum vitae or short biography on the candidate
 - letters of support (2 or more)
- **A self-nomination or a nomination submitted by a family member will not be eligible for consideration**
- **Incomplete nominations will not be eligible for consideration**

Presentation of Award

Honorary Degrees are awarded at Convocation, which are held in the Spring and Fall every year. Recipients are expected to make a speech at Convocation. Honorary Degrees are not, except in exceptional circumstances, awarded posthumously or in absentia.

*Guidelines for Honorary Degree nominations
approved by the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees
at its meeting of October 7, 2008.*

*Terms of Reference and Composition approved by Senate
at its meeting of December 9, 2008
and approved by the Board of Governors
at its meeting of February 20, 2009
as recommended by the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees*