

## **1.3 Granting Honorary Degrees CSU system**

BR 12-019 approved 3/15/12

### **I. POLICIES**

- A.** The granting of honorary degrees to individuals who have made a significant contribution to society or to a university or college is a common practice in higher education. In the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the purpose of granting honorary degrees is to honor a person and to advance the work and reputation of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. The Board of Regents must approve any conferral of an honorary degree.
- B.** Community Colleges, Charter Oak State College and State Universities may select from the following categories of honorary degrees based upon the intended recipient's field of contribution, achievement, service, and distinction:
  - a. Doctor of Engineering
  - b. Doctor of Fine Arts
  - c. Doctor of Humane Letters
  - d. Doctor of Laws
  - e. Doctor of Literature
  - f. Doctor of Music
  - g. Doctor of Pedagogy
  - h. Doctor of Science
  - i. Doctor of Political Science
  - j. Doctor of Technology
  - k. Associate of Arts
  - l. Associate of Science
- C.** Honorary degrees shall be granted only when circumstances warrant such action. It is possible that in some years no honorary degree will be awarded. A person awarded an honorary degree by Board of Regents institution will not be awarded an honorary degree by another within five years after the award of the first.
- D.** No person during his or her term as a member of the Board of Regents and no person during his or her employment by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall be granted an honorary degree.
- E.** No Connecticut resident holding elective office from a Connecticut constituency and no Connecticut resident holding appointive office in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of state government shall be considered for an honorary degree during the term of his/her election or appointment and for one year, thereafter.
- F.** No degree shall be conferred in consideration of the payment of money or other valuable things.
- G.** Ordinarily, an honorary degree will not be awarded posthumously.
- H.** All honorary degrees will be conferred by the Chairperson of the Board of Regents or by a Regent designated by the Chairperson.

Following is the wording to be used when conferring the honorary degree:

"BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, THE CONNECTICUT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONCURRING, I CONFER UPON YOU THE DEGREE, \_\_\_\_\_, HONORIS CAUSA, AND INVEST YOU WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THEREUNTO. IN TOKEN THEREOF I HAND TO YOU THE DIPLOMA AND DIRECT THAT YOU BE VESTED WITH THE HOOD APPROPRIATE TO YOUR DEGREE."

## **II. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION**

The Board of Regents is supportive of the following procedures for selection of candidates.

- A.** Identification of potential recipients of honorary degrees will be made under the supervision of the university or college president with appropriate consultation. The president shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the name of the potential recipient until the process has been concluded.
- B.** The university or college president himself/herself shall forward to the President of the Board of Regents the name of a potential recipient with an explanation as to why the individual merits the honor, a thorough discussion of the potential recipient's background and an assessment of the benefits and possible concerns.
- C.** The President of the Board of Regents shall present the college or university president's recommendation to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee together with his or her own recommendation.
- D.** Occasionally, the Board of Regents, in consultation with the President, may recommend a candidate to receive a ConnSCU –wide honorary degree to be conferred at an occasion determined by the Board of Regents. In this case, the President of the Board of Regents will communicate to the potential recipient.
- E.** The process of proposing a nominee, committee deliberation, and Board action should occur as early as possible, with final approval by the full Board of Regents not less than six weeks before the ceremony.