

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Council Room, 250 Student Union

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the September 8, 2009, Minutes
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Special Report: Anne Matoy — Health Care Insurance Update (10 Minutes)
Special Report: Lee Bird — United Way (10 Minutes)
Lee Bird — Behavioral Consultation Team (10 Minutes)
5. Reports of Standing Committees:
 - a. Academic Standards and Policies: Mindy McCann – Update
Recommendation: Conversion of ‘R’ Thesis and Dissertation Grades to ‘SR’*
Recommendation: OSU Policy on Awarding Honorary Degrees*
 - b. Athletics: Art Klatt – Update
 - c. Budget: Ron Miller – Update
 - d. Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Tom Jordan – Update
 - e. Faculty: Udaya DeSilva – No Report
 - f. Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Bud Lacy – Update
 - g. Research: Jim Smay – No Report
 - h. Retirement and Fringe Benefits: J. D. Brown – No Report
 - i. Rules and Procedures: Stephen Perkins – No Report
 - j. Student Affairs and Learning Resources: Karen Hickman – No Report
6. Reports of Liaison Representatives
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Refreshments will be served at 2:45 p.m.

**Attached*

	Amended By	Passed	Failed
Recommendation No. <u>09-10-01-ASP</u>	1. _____	_____	_____
Moved By: <u>Academic Standards & Policies Committee</u>	2. _____	_____	_____
Seconded By: _____	3. _____	_____	_____
_____ Passed _____ Tabled _____ Failed	4. _____	_____	_____

Title: Conversion of ‘R’ Thesis and Dissertation Grades to ‘SR’

The Faculty Council Recommends to President Hargis that: the Registrar should enact the following policy.

For students who earned graduate degrees during Fall 2008, Spring 2009, and Summer 2009, convert remaining ‘R’ grades (assigned prior to Fall 2008) for thesis and dissertation courses to ‘SR’ (satisfactory research) grades. Beginning Fall 2009, as students submit diploma applications, the Registrar’s Office will examine the transcript and, if any ‘R’ grades for thesis and dissertation grades that were assigned prior to Fall 2008 still remain, these grades will be converted to ‘SR’ grades. This action will allow the OSU transcript to accurately reflect the number of earned hours for the degree conferred. Grades of ‘SR’ count toward earned hours, but grades of ‘R’ do not. Neither ‘R’ grades nor ‘SR’ grades affect GPA. This action is in keeping with the fact that any thesis and dissertation ‘R’ grades that were assigned prior to Fall 2008 and were not changed to letter grades by faculty before the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester are to be interpreted as satisfactory research.

Rationale:

Background

Prior to the Fall 2008 semester, faculty had the option of assigning a letter grade for each thesis or dissertation course or assigning a temporary ‘R’ grade, indicating that the student had made progress on thesis or dissertation research. Upon completion of the thesis or dissertation, faculty submitted forms to change the ‘R’ grades to final letter grades, and a minimum 3.00 GPA was required in research hours for degree conferral. Effective Fall 2008, OSU thesis and dissertation courses earn permanent grades of ‘SR’ (satisfactory research) or ‘UR’ (unsatisfactory research) at the end of each applicable term. Beginning with Fall 2008 degrees, no research GPA is calculated. Instead, degree requirements are verified by ensuring that each student has earned the number of satisfactory research credit hours that are stipulated by the specific degree plan.

During the period of transition to the SR/UR system, faculty members were allowed to change previous thesis and dissertation ‘R’ grades to final letter grades if they wished to do so. Such grade changes were only possible before the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester. Any remaining ‘R’ grades are viewed as permanent and apply toward degree requirements in the same manner as “satisfactory research” grades. The legend on the back of OSU transcripts states, “For degrees conferred in or after Fall 2008, ‘R’ grades in courses numbered 5000 and 6000 denote satisfactory research.”

Problem with ‘R’ grades remaining on the transcript as permanent grades

The 'R' grades that were assigned prior to Fall 2008 that were not changed to letter grades remain on student's transcripts and are interpreted as 'SR' grades. However, the 'R' grades (which are still used for some non-thesis, non-dissertation research courses) are viewed in SIS as temporary and do not register as earned credit hours. As a result, students' transcripts are adversely affected by an inaccurate reporting of earned hours.

Example transcript display: 'SR' grades reflect earned credit hours.

-----Summer 2009-----

CPSY6000359	DOCTORAL DISSERTATION	SR	9.00
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	AHRS	EHRS	QHRS	QPTS	GPA
Current	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.000

Example transcript display: 'R' grades do *not* reflect earned credit hours.

-----Spring 2002-----

CPSY6000360	DOCTORAL DISSERTATION	R	(4.00)
CPSY6123001	ADLT PERSONL ASSESSMNT	A	3.00 12.00
EPSY6143001	INTRO DEV PSYCHOPHARM	B	3.00 9.00
EPSY6163881	EMOTION AND COGNITION	B	3.00 9.00
REMS6663001	APPL MULTIVARIATE RES	C	3.00 6.00

	AHRS	EHRS	QHRS	QPTS	GPA
Current	16.00	12.00	12.00	36.00	3.000

Example of total attempted and earned credit hours.

	AHRS	EHRS	QHRS	QPTS	GPA
Institution	188.00	140.00	128.00	456.00	3.563
Cum Grad/Ret	188.00	140.00	128.00	456.00	3.563
Cumulative	188.00	140.00	128.00	456.00	3.563

-----End of Graduate Academic Record-----

	Amended By	Passed	Failed
Recommendation No. <u>09-10-02-ASP</u>	1. _____	_____	_____
Moved By: <u>Academic Standards & Policies Committee</u>	2. _____	_____	_____
Seconded By: _____	3. _____	_____	_____
_____ Passed _____ Tabled _____ Failed	4. _____	_____	_____
Title: <u>OSU Policy on Awarding Honorary Degrees</u>			

The Faculty Council Recommends to President Hargis that: the policy regarding Awarding Honorary Degrees should be modified as noted in the attached document.

Rationale:

There are several minor changes to clean up language relating to a previously approved change in the Committee’s charge (from making a decision to providing the President with a recommendation). There are also some dates that have been moved forward slightly.

The number of honorary degrees that can be awarded in a year has been increased to follow the policy set by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. This would, for instance, allow the university to award a married couple honorary degrees simultaneously if such was warranted.

The committee’s composition has been increased to include two non-voting representatives appointed by the President, one from the OSU Alumni Association and one from the OSU Foundation. While these members will not be voting on a recommendation of possible candidates, they will be available to provide the committee with any relevant additional information.

These specific changes are noted in the attached document.

The document below is the proposed P&P document with the changes included

Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures

AWARDING HONORARY DEGREES

2-0220

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

October 2009

POLICY

1.01 Institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education are authorized to confer honorary degrees granted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Oklahoma State University typically awards an honorary doctoral degree in recognition of a career of extraordinary accomplishment that has benefited society through intellectual, artistic, scientific, professional, or public service contributions. In many cases, a candidate may be best known for a single achievement; but an honorary degree is not given to celebrate a deed alone or upon simply meeting a set of minimum standards.

CRITERIA

2.01 The following criteria shall guide in the selection of individuals to receive honorary degrees and in the awarding of such degrees.

- A. Oklahoma State University shall confer honorary degrees only at the highest level for which it is authorized to award earned degrees, namely the Doctoral level.
- B. Any such honorary degree shall be distinguishable from earned degrees. Typical examples are listed in the Appendix.
- C. An honorary degree may be conferred only after receiving approval from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- D. Oklahoma State University will follow the policies of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in determining the number of honorary degrees to be granted.
- E. Oklahoma State University shall not confer honorary degrees upon any faculty member, administrator, or other official associated with the University until such individuals have been separated from the University for two or more academic semesters.
- F. Oklahoma State University will not recommend awarding an honorary degree for an emeritus faculty member of the University unless that person has been recognized for outstanding achievement or has pursued a meritorious second career.
- G. Oklahoma State University shall not confer honorary degrees based upon quid pro quo arrangements, either for contributions promised or received, or for any other mutually beneficial arrangement between the University or an official of the University and a recipient.
- H. To avoid involving the University in partisan politics, Oklahoma State University will not recommend awarding honorary degrees to serving members of the Oklahoma congressional

delegation, elected and appointed state officials, members of the state judiciary, serving members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents. Such persons are eligible for consideration two years or more after they have vacated office or terminated employment.

I. Oklahoma State University shall award honorary degrees in absentia only in exceptional circumstances to be approved by the State Regents.

J. Oklahoma State University shall award honorary degrees posthumously only in exceptional circumstances to be approved by the State Regents.

PROCEDURES

Committee Structure

3.01 The Committee on Honorary Degrees is the central agency in the process of awarding honorary degrees. The committee is composed of fourteen members. Seven of the members will include the Vice Chair of the Graduate Council and the Chair or the Vice Chair of each of the six Graduate Faculty groups. The Vice Chair of the Graduate Council shall serve as the chair of the committee. One member of the Academic Standards and Policies Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Council. The President shall appoint four members of the committee, including one graduate and one undergraduate student. The President will also appoint a non-voting representative from the OSU Alumni Association and a non-voting member from the OSU Foundation.

Process Initiation

3.02 Nominations shall normally originate from the faculty through a formal resolution of an academic unit, department or school of the University. The faculty may collaborate among units in endorsing a nomination. The consensus of an academic unit is essential to the success of such a nomination.

3.03 Early in each academic year the President's office will invite all academic units of the University to consider nominations of candidates for honorary degrees. The notice shall specify an October 15 deadline for the submission of nominations.

3.04 Nominations from others may also be made directly to the Committee on Honorary Degrees. Where such nominations would indicate the use of an honorary degree title which directly or indirectly implies an identification with a specific departmental (unit) faculty, the committee shall seek advisory input from that group.

Review Process

3.05 The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall meet in November. Each member of the committee shall be supplied in advance with the nominating materials for each candidate. Such materials typically will include a letter of nomination that makes the case for awarding an honorary degree to the candidate and the candidate's curriculum vitae. Nominations may be accompanied by letters of support from persons prominent in the candidate's field.

3.06 Representatives of a nominating unit shall be invited to attend the committee meeting at which its nominee will be evaluated. Following the general discussion of the nominees, the committee moves into executive session. After deliberation, the members of the committee cast written ballots ranking

the candidates. The cumulative rankings are then reviewed by the committee. The committee recommends to the President which nominations are worthy of recognition, whether more than one degree should be awarded, and what degree is appropriate to each candidate being endorsed. All nominations reviewed by the Committee will be forwarded to the President, along with a recommendation on the acceptability of each nomination and rationale for the Committee's recommendation.

3.07 Individuals recommended for an Honorary Degree by the Committee, and not awarded a degree the first year, shall be eligible to receive the degree for the two subsequent years without further evaluation. After the third year the nomination must be resubmitted by an academic unit to the Committee for evaluation and ranking. The nominating unit will be invited to provide supplemental information to the Committee each year.

Report to the President

3.08 Normally the chair of the Committee on Honorary Degrees shall submit a written report on the committee's actions to the President by mid-December. The report shall contain preliminary drafts of the proposed degree citation(s). The President shall convey such report with his/her recommendations to the OSU/A&M Board of Regents for their action prior to the January meeting of the Board. The President shall then convey approved nomination(s) to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for their action at their January meeting. Alterations of the timing of recommended schedule may be made to accommodate special circumstances which may arise.

Presidential Action

3.09 The President shall invite the candidate(s) confirmed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to attend commencement and receive the honorary degree.

Confidentiality

3.10 All preliminary considerations of candidates for honorary degrees by academic units and by the Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be conducted with a confidentiality appropriate to matters of personnel actions.

Approved: Faculty Council, November 13, 1990
Deans Council, November 29, 1990
OSU Board of Regents, December 7, 1990

Revised: Faculty Council, May 1, 1999
Deans Council, September 9, 1999

Revisions Approved by Council of Deans: October 2003
Revisions Transmitted to Faculty Council: October 2003
Revisions Approved by Provost: September 2006

Revisions Approved by the Honorary Degree Committee, September 9, 2009
Revisions Approved by the Council of Deans, September 10, 2009

Appendix

The following are typical examples of current national practice for titles for honorary degrees:

- a) Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.) for distinction in the fine arts.
- b) Doctor of Social Science (Soc.Sc.D.) for distinction, usually in academic life, in the social sciences.
- c) Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) for distinction in any field of science or medicine.
- d) Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) for distinction in scholarly contributions to the humanities or contributions to the general welfare in any number of fields.
- e) Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.) for distinction in the field of literature.
- f) Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) for distinction in the field of theology or for extraordinary leadership, scholarly or administrative, in the area of religion.
- g) Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) for government and public service or for preeminence in any field.

This list is intended to provide examples of degree designation. It is taken from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education policy statement on honorary degrees.