TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY POLICY
FOR AWARDING HONORARY DOCTORATES

Texas A&M University selectively and judiciously awards honorary doctorates of letters to individuals of exceptional accomplishment in order to bring honor and recognition to Texas A&M University and to identify persons whose accomplishments and attitudes its students may emulate.

I. Criteria

Texas A&M University awards honorary doctorates principally to individuals who have distinguished themselves in sustained scholarly activity in the arts, letters, science, technology, or service to humanity. On occasion an honorary doctorate may be awarded to an individual from industry or government who has distinguished himself or herself by nationally or internationally significant contributions to society at large and scholarly pursuits in particular. Nationally or internationally significant achievement is the over-riding criterion for all candidates.

Honorary doctorates recognize the individual, not the position or office. Honorary doctorates are not awarded in absentia or posthumously. They are not awarded to current employees of the University, nor to members of the Board of Regents. They are not awarded to individuals who have direct political, legal, or budgetary authority over the University. In no case shall an honorary doctorate be awarded in consideration of any past, present, or future gift or other benefaction to the University.

II. Selection and Approval

1. The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall consist of nine tenured faculty members with distinguished records of scholarship and publication serving staggered three-year terms. Each year two members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and one by the President for a three year term beginning April 1. The Provost or his/her representative shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the committee. The Committee shall recommend to the President an individual from among its voting membership to serve as Chair of the Committee.

2. Nominations shall be submitted by resolution of the faculty of an academic unit of the University to the Chair of the Committee on Honorary Degrees. Nominations must be received by October 1 of the calendar year preceding that in which the degree is to be awarded; any exception to this procedure requires approval of at least seven voting members of the Committee. A completed nomination packet shall consist of ten copies of the following: a letter of nomination, a letter of support from the appropriate academic unit, and the nominee's curriculum vitae.

3. Nominations and supporting documents shall be reviewed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees. The Committee shall select nominees for further consideration by the Faculty Senate.

4. Nominations for recipients of Honorary Degrees shall be submitted for approval by the Faculty Senate in an executive session at least 120 days prior to the commencement exercise at which the degree is to be awarded.

5. All nominations approved by the Faculty Senate, and the votes they receive in the Faculty Senate, shall be forwarded to the President.

6. The President shall present his/her choice of approved nominees to the Board of Regents.

7. Honorary doctorates shall be awarded only to those nominees approved by the Committee on Honorary Degrees, the Faculty Senate, the President, and the Board of Regents. The names are to be kept confidential until awarding of this degree.

8. Five years from the adoption of this policy the Faculty Senate and the President's Office shall jointly review the list of recipients of honorary doctorates and the functioning of the selection and approval process to determine whether the practice of awarding honorary doctorates at Texas A&M University shall continue.
Approved by the Faculty Senate October 12, 1992  (FS.10.033)