



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
Box 351271

Class B Bulletin No. 176

Mailed December 23, 2009

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION

At its meeting on December 3, 2009, the Faculty Senate approved a Class B change in the University Handbook: Volume 4, Part 3, Chapter 11, Section 6 – related to Honorary Degrees. President Mark Emmert has also approved the proposed revisions, and the faculty is now asked for its approval or disapproval. ***If you do not respond, we will assume you have approved the changes in the legislation. To disapprove, and call for Senate reconsideration of the matter, you must object in writing (letter or e-mail) by January 13, 2010. A copy of the proposed changes is included on the second page of this notice.***

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The scope and functioning of the 14 Faculty Councils has been evaluated during the past year. As part of this process it was noted that for the past several years, the Faculty Council on University Relations (FCUR) has focused its work primarily on honorary degrees, under responsibility established in 2002 by Class B legislation in the *University Handbook* (Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11) for recommending candidates for honorary degrees to the President. Other parts of the FCUR charge have been simultaneously addressed by other Councils, creating unnecessary overlap and redundancy among the Councils' work. To improve efficiency in the functioning of the Faculty Councils as a whole and to recognize the more focused functioning of the current FCUR, the Faculty Senate has taken action (on December 3, 2009) to create a Special Committee on Honorary Degrees to perform the functions related to honorary degrees previously assigned to the Faculty Council on University Relations. This limited scope is consistent with the work of other Special Committees rather than the broader scope of Faculty Councils. At the same meeting, the Faculty Senate initiated Class A legislation eliminating the Faculty Council on University Relations.

This Class B legislation changes the *University Handbook* to reflect the new Special Committee's responsibilities.

LEGISLATION

Class B Legislation.

Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11: Grades Honors and Scholarship

Section 6. Honorary Degrees

Upon the recommendation of the Faculty, the Board of Regents may confer Honorary Degrees upon a person or persons of exceptional merit, other than graduates of this University. The ~~Faculty Council on University Relations~~ Special Committee on Honorary Degrees will have jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the award of Honorary Degrees. Nominations for candidates may come from a variety of sources, including faculty councils, committees, departments, programs, schools, colleges or campuses. The names of nominees approved by the ~~Council~~ Special Committee will be forwarded to the President of the University. After consultation with the President, the ~~Council~~ Special Committee will, on behalf of the Faculty, recommend candidates for Honorary Degrees to the Regents. Honorary Degrees will be presented at either a commencement ceremony or a formal academic convocation.

REMEMBER: THE DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN OBJECTIONS IS JANUARY 13 2010.

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