

Secretary of the Faculty

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February 4, 2002

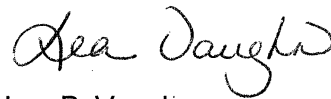
Richard L. McCormick,
President
Office of the President
Box 351230

SUBJECT: Class B Legislation: Proposed Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11:
Honorary Degrees

Dear President McCormick:

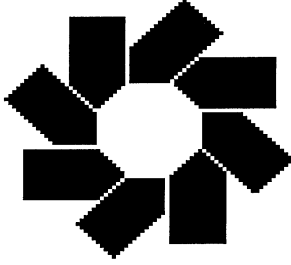
This is to inform you that the above legislation regarding revisions to Honorary Degrees went into effect 1 February 2002. There were six objections to this legislation.

Sincerely,



Lea B. Vaughn
Secretary of the Faculty

Enc:
Cc: Bradley Holt, Faculty Senate Chair



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
Box 351271

Class B Bulletin No. 168

Mailed December 27, 2001

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Proposed Revision of Honorary Degrees
(*University Handbook*, Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11, *Honorary Degrees*)

At its meeting on 6 December 2001, the Faculty Senate approved legislation to revise the *University Handbook* (Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11, *Honorary Degrees*).

President McCormick has approved the proposed revision, and the faculty is now asked for its approval or disapproval. If you do not respond, we will assume you have approved the revision. To disapprove, and call for Senate reconsideration of the matter, **you must object in writing by 31 January 2002**. Write us at Box 351271, or email us at senate@u.washington.edu.

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RATIONALE FOR THE LEGISLATION

The rationale for this legislation is noted in the introduction to the legislation. Briefly, the legislation will permit the award of honorary degrees. It is expected that this will be done carefully, and on a very selective basis. The legislation also provides for faculty input and review at every step of the process. The Council on University Relations views this proposal as an opportunity to celebrate the kind of environment in which we work, and one that celebrates creative and scholarly achievement.

This legislation is the product of a two-hear dialogue within and between the Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Council on University Relations. Both groups approved the legislation, and the Senate vote in favor of this proposal was overwhelmingly positive.

**REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN OBJECTIONS IS THURSDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2002!**

Legislation on Honorary Degrees

Introduction

RCW 28B.20.130(3) gives Faculty a significant role in the process of conferring honorary degrees. It states:

The board, upon recommendation of the faculty, may also confer honorary degrees upon persons other than graduates of this University in recognition of their learning or devotion to literature, art or science: PROVIDED, That no degree shall ever be conferred in consideration of the payment of money or the giving of property of whatsoever kind.

Except for a brief period in the late 1800s, the University has typically not awarded honorary degrees, either as part of commencement or to special visiting dignitaries. And, from the 1950s until 1990, the University's featured speaker at commencement was its president. In 1998, the University's commencement was moved to Husky Stadium for a single, rather than double, ceremony for the entire University. This made it possible to consider having commencement speakers of national and international prominence. Given this, the question has arisen as to whether it would enhance the University's efforts to secure such speakers if the University were able to honor their presence on our campus by awarding an honorary degree. In addition, the University occasionally has visitors, other than commencement speakers, of such distinguished accomplishment that would warrant such an honor.

A considerable amount of discussion about this proposal has taken place at the Senate Executive Committee over the last two years. The proposal below is an attempt to meet and respond to the concerns raised at those meetings.

Many people were concerned about the ability of the entire Faculty to have a voice in this decision. By making this Class B legislation, that concern is addressed. Further, by addressing this as an issue of Council jurisdiction, we secure a Faculty role, as envisioned by both state statute and the *Code*, and allow our colleagues on the Council to develop a meaningful procedure for Faculty review of these appointments. On the other hand, by conferring this power as a jurisdictional grant, we need not encumber either the *Code* or the Council with procedural details that may warrant continual revision in the face of changed circumstances.

Proposal

Class B legislation submitted to the Senate Executive Committee and to the Faculty Senate would amend the Faculty Handbook as follows. Section 6, in bold, would be added to Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 11:

