

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

J. S. Clark Building, 4th Floor

Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Phone (225) 771-4680

Fax (225) 771-5522

Policy Title: **Conferment of Honorary Degrees**

Policy Number: Administration 01:03

DATE: March 4, 2005

Authority to confer honorary degrees is granted to the Southern University Board of Supervisors in Part VI., Section 3352 of Act 313 of the 1975 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, where it is stated, "... Any Board also may confer appropriate honorary degrees on any persons who have made substantial achievements in literary, artistic, scientific or technical fields of endeavor, but no degree, whether honorary or earned, shall be conferred except by vote of the board upon the recommendation of the president of the system, head of the college or university, and faculty of the appropriate college, school or division of a college or university."

The following guidelines for awarding honorary degrees are established for the Southern University System:

I. Criteria for selection

The nomination should be:

- A. considered based on the nominee's contribution to his/her field of endeavor or to society in general. Candidates nominated should be of outstanding character and distinction such that the award would honor both the Southern University System and the campus presenting the award.
- B. based on the extent to which the candidate made substantive contributions to the development of the Southern University System, a component of the System, the State of Louisiana, the Nation or the World.
- C. considered if the candidate is not a current member of the Southern University Board of Supervisors or has not served in this position over the past two years.

II. Specific procedures

An academic department, college, senior administrators, or Board of Supervisors may offer the names of persons whose achievements qualify them for consideration for the receipt of the honorary degree.

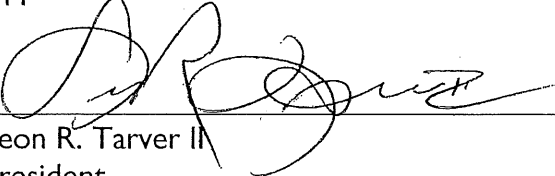
- A. Nominations should be forwarded to the Chancellor's Office along with support documents
- B. Without passing judgment, the Chancellor shall inform the Dean via the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the nomination and forward all support documents received to the Dean for review and consideration.
- C. The Dean circulates information regarding the nominee(s) to the faculty of the college and obtains a vote on the nominee(s). The vote may be taken in a meeting of the faculty, by a telephone poll of the faculty, or by written votes from members of the faculty.
- D. The Dean communicates to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in writing the result of the vote, along with his or her statement of approval or disapproval.
- E. The Vice Chancellor shall transmit to the Chancellor all information received from the Dean along with the Vice Chancellor's statement of approval or disapproval.
- G. The Chancellor shall review information transmitted to him/her and submit his/her recommendations to the President of the Southern University System.
- H. The President reviews the information transmitted to him by the Chancellor and if he/she concurs with the Chancellor's recommendation, he/she will submit the recommendation to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Supervisors. Upon the approval of the Committee, the recommendation is presented to the full Board for final action.

III. General Considerations

- A. Each campus should limit the number of honorary degrees awarded during an academic year to two (2). However, additional degrees may be awarded under special circumstances, as approved by the Southern University Board of Supervisors.
- B. Honorary degrees normally should be awarded at commencement ceremonies or other appropriate academic convocations.
- C. Each campus is encouraged to consider the use of special recognition, such as the awarding of a university medal, for those individuals who merit special consideration.
- D. It is critically important that nominations for honorary degrees are submitted in accordance with provisions outlined in Section I above.

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Approval:



Leon R. Tarver II
President

3/8/05
Date

xc: Board of Supervisors
System Officers
Chancellors
Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs