

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 29, 2016

TO: College Deans

FROM: Andrew C. Comrie, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

SUBJECT: Call for Honorary Degree Nominations

I am writing to encourage you to identify candidates to nominate for honorary degrees. These honorary degrees, which recognize distinguished contributions to the University, the State, the nation, or the world at large, will be awarded at upcoming ceremonies.

Recall that two years ago we discussed and initiated a new approach for the awarding of honorary degrees. In order to (i) keep the honorary degrees awarded at the main May commencement to a manageable number (approximately three, including the commencement speaker), and (ii) avoid limiting the total number awarded in a year below that threshold, we began offering some honorary degrees off-cycle during the year at special ceremonies. For example, Fred Fox received his honorary degree at a special concert in his honor when the School of Music was named for him. As you identify potential nominees, please strongly consider this new special ceremony approach. Note that this requires advance planning to ensure that the President or Provost can be present at the ceremony to grant the degree.

University policy requires all nominations to come from an "organized faculty unit" (e.g., college, department, or program), supported by a vote of the relevant faculty group. No more than one nomination from a single college or faculty will be approved in any one year.

In proposing a candidate, you and the nominating unit will provide the nominee's curriculum vitae and a statement of approximately 500 words indicating why the award is appropriate. This statement should focus on the significance of the nominee's work, drawing clear and particular attention to the nominee's connection to the University, the Tucson community, or the State of Arizona. Exceptions to this general rule may be made only if the case is compelling.

Honorary degree nominations are to be returned with the result of the college faculty vote, the recommended degree to be awarded and your comments regarding the candidate to the Office of the Provost by Friday, November 11, 2016.

The Honorary Degrees: Policy and Procedures is available at:
<http://provost.arizona.edu/files/Honorary%20Degree%20Policy%202012.pdf>

c: Amy Fountain, Chair, Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees

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