Honorary Degrees Policy

Approval Authority: Senate (Confirmed by the Board of Governors)

Established: 2024 12 12

Amendments: none

Category: Academic

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1. Preamble

An honorary degree is the highest honour conferred by the university. Through the conferring of honorary degrees, NOSM University seeks to recognize outstanding achievement, whether academic or through service to society. NOSM University can grant an honorary degree to individuals who it recognizes to have accomplished extraordinary achievements and remarkable service in the field of medicine, healthcare or health sciences in community, in Canada or abroad, and to honour those individuals whose accomplishments are of such generally perceived excellence that they provide, through example, inspiration and leadership to the graduates of the University. The University shall be under no obligation to award an honorary doctorate in any year.

2. Honorary Degrees Conferred

The university confers the following honorary degrees, *honoris causa*:

- Doctor of Medicine (MD)

3. Honorary Degrees Committee

The Senate shall establish a Committee responsible for the reviewing and evaluating candidates for honorary degrees and making recommendations relative to the granting of honorary degrees. The Committee is charged with confirming the membership, reviewing all nominations for honorary degrees and recommending to the Senate the potential honorary degree recipient.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Selection Criteria

The criteria for the award of an honorary degree are excellence, eminence and accomplishment. Nominees must be exceptionally distinguished persons prominent in the community and the professions, and others who have made significant contributions locally, nationally, and globally and to NOSM University.

Nominees for the award of an honorary degree should meet <u>one or more</u> of the following criteria:

a) The candidate will be a person of recognized status within regional, provincial, national, international, Indigenous (e.g., First Nation, Métis, Inuit) and/or Francophone communities.

b) The candidate will have made a distinctive and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in one or more fields of endeavor, particularly in areas relevant to NOSM University's mission.

c) The candidate will have established and/or maintained positive relationships with organizations (e.g., public sector, private sector, non-profits, Indigenous communities/nations, government) and/or the broader community, especially those aligned with NOSM University's values and goals.

d) The candidate will have contributed, either directly or indirectly, to the well-being of humankind (e.g., advancing the social, cultural, environmental, and/or political circumstances of people, including under-represented and equity-deserving groups).

e) The candidate will have made a substantial contribution to NOSM University and/or the regions it serves (e.g., enhancing the university's profile in research, contributing to health equity, medical, environmental, economic, and/or social sustainability, supporting economic development, or fostering local partnerships and community development).

f) The candidate will have demonstrated leadership in promoting health equity, social accountability, and access to quality healthcare, particularly in underserved and remote communities, which aligns with the core values of NOSM University.

4.2   Exclusions

a) Active members of NOSM University, including faculty, staff, librarians, the Board of Governors and the Senate are not eligible for honorary degrees. At least two years after retirement can they be considered for nomination.

b) Active politicians will not be considered for an honorary degree. For greater certainty, "active politicians" includes but is not limited to currently elected Indigenous, municipal, provincial or federal government officials.

5. Confidentiality

The deliberations of the Committee must be held in strictest confidence and in a closed meeting. The only names ever made public will be the names of those nominees who are offered <u>and</u> who accept an honorary degree following the Senate's approval and the presentation and announcement by the University. The names of nominators will be kept confidential by the Committee.

6. Conflict of Interest

To avoid the appearance of conflict, formal nominations from members of the Committee will not be considered. As well, in those cases where a committee member, or any member of the immediate family of a committee member is nominated, the Committee member will resign for a period of three years from the Committee if the nomination is to be considered. Additionally, should any member of the Committee have a conflict of interest with one of the nominees, a declaration should be made immediately upon notice of the conflict. It should be noted that individual members of the Committee may not submit nominations on their own behalf.

7.   Other considerations

7.1. Honorary degrees are not granted *in absentia*. In extenuating circumstances exceptions may be made with the approval of the Senate.

7.2. Normally not more than one honorary degree will be awarded at convocation, although a second single degree may be awarded in exceptional circumstances. In such instances, the Committee would make such recommendations to the President and final approval would be obtained by the Senate.

8.   Interpretation

Questions of interpretation or application of this policy or its procedures will be referred to the:

- Provost provost@nosm.ca
- University Secretary governance@nosm.ca

9.   Related documents or references

University Documents and Information

- NOSM University Act (2022) Regulations
- Senate Bylaws
- Honorary Degrees Committee Terms of Reference

AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS

The following is a list of authorities and officers for this procedure:

a. Approving Authority: Senate

b. Responsible Officer: Provost

c. Procedural Authority: Provost

d. Procedural Officer: University Secretary

Review and Revision History

Review Period: 3 years or as required

Date for Next Review: 2027 12 12