



NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. II-PROVOST OFFICE 2.0

HONORARY DEGREE

UNIT POLICY—ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. PURPOSE AND CRITERIA

- A. An honorary degree is one of higher education's most significant accolades. North Carolina A&T State University will award Honorary Doctoral Degrees, on a very selective basis, to recognize distinguished individuals who have attained lasting distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the University, including scholarship, creativity, leadership, and humanitarian or public service, at the state, national or international levels. Honorary Degrees may not be awarded to encourage or reward financial contributions to the University. Only the Board of Trustees may authorize the award of an honorary degree.
- B. Honorary Doctoral Degrees shall not be awarded to members of the University administration, faculty, staff, Trustees or members of the Board of Governors, the Governor, or any other elected official or state employee involved with the function or control of the University, as long as the relationship exists.

II. COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

- A. The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving all Honorary Degrees to be conferred by the University, subject to such policies as may be established by the Board of Governors. The Board will make its selections of honorary degree recipients from nominations submitted to and recommended by the Committee on Honorary Degrees (referred to as the "Committee"). Nominations submitted directly to the Board of Trustees must be forwarded to the Committee through the Chancellor or the Provost.

- B. The Committee will be charged by the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Committee will review the nominations and provide a written evaluation of each candidate to the Chancellor, who will make final recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Committee evaluation, together with any written recommendations from the Chair will be provided to the Provost and Chancellor for review. If the Chancellor recommends the nomination it will go forward to the Board of Trustees for approval. The Committee will provide one of three summary evaluations:
- 1 recommends Candidate to receive an Honorary Degree,
 - 2 does not recommend Candidate to receive an Honorary Degree, or
 - 3 does not recommend Candidate to receive an Honorary Degree in the current year, but does recommend retaining nomination for the following year. The Committee Chair shall participate in all discussions, and will vote only in the event of a tie.
- C. Each year, the Provost shall solicit recommendations for appointment to the Committee through communication with the Faculty Senate, the deans, and the campus community. Faculty Committee members shall serve two-year staggered terms, with the term of appointment beginning August 1. Members may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

III. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS

- A. No more than four Honorary Degrees will be conferred in any given academic year. Nomination materials for Candidates who are not selected to receive an Honorary Degree may be held over for reconsideration during the next academic year. If the review is not favorable, the Committee Chair will notify the nominator of the decision, including whether the nomination materials will be reconsidered in the next year.
- B. If a Candidate is selected for an Honorary Degree, both the nominee and the nominator will be informed by the Chancellor that the Board of Trustees has approved the nomination. Honorary degrees will be conferred at a N.C. A&T's commencement ceremony only. Honorary degrees shall be conferred within one year of the Candidate's selection, and the Candidate must be present at the conferral ceremony.
- C. All considerations for Honorary Degrees by the Committee will be held in the strictest confidence and considered only in Closed Sessions. Individuals nominated but not recommended by the Committee will have their nominations carried forward for one additional year, if that is the recommendation of the Committee.
- D. Upon final action of the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor shall notify all recipient(s) and arrange for awarding of the Honorary Degree(s) at one of the university's commencement ceremonies.

IV. TYPES AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

- A. Upon recommendation of the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees will confer Honorary Doctoral Degrees in the following categories:
1. Honorary Doctor of Sciences
 2. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters
 3. Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts
- B. The University may confer Honorary Doctoral Degree(s) at the Fall or Spring Commencement. Nominators and seconders of successful candidates may be invited by the Chancellor to participate in activities honoring the candidate. Individuals must accept the degree in person, within two years of approval by the Board of Trustees, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees. Honorary Degree recipients must commit to a date to attend the conferral ceremony to receive the Honorary Degree before the award will be made public by the Chancellor's office.

V. PROHIBITION ON FEES AND HONORARIA

An honorary degree recipient shall not receive a speaker's fee or honorarium for accepting an honorary degree or delivering a commencement address or the equivalent.

- B. Any exception must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

VI. REVOCATION OF DEGREES

The authority to revoke a previously awarded honorary degree rests with the Board of Trustees of the University. The Board of Trustees may revoke an honorary degree if, in its judgment, the recipient of the degree has engaged in conduct that: 1) is inconsistent with the mission and/or values of the University; 2) undermines the accomplishments that were cited as the basis for awarding the honorary degree; or 3) is injurious to the reputation of the University. The Board of Trustees' revocation of an honorary degree must be supported by the Chancellor's recommendation, made after an evaluation of the necessity for such action using the same procedures articulated in this policy for the selection and nomination of an honorary degree recipient.

Effective upon approval

Approved by the Chancellor

First approved: April 23, 2018

Revised: