

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Officers
Deans/Directors/Chairs, Norman and HSC
Presidents of Student Associations, Norman and HSC
Chairs, Faculty Senates, Norman and HSC
Members of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents
Chairs, Staff Senates, Norman and HSC
Members of Board of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association
Chair, University of Oklahoma Foundation Board of Trustees

FROM: Nancy L. Mergler, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus
Chair, Honorary Degrees Screening Committee

SUBJECT: Honorary Degrees Nominations **Deadline: March 14, 2008**

DATE: February 14, 2008

By action of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the University of Oklahoma was authorized to confer honorary degrees for the first time in May, 1991. Since that time, approximately 81 outstanding individuals have been honored at Commencement with this distinction. It is now time to begin the nomination, review, and selection process for OU's May 2009 honorary degree recipients.

As chair of the Honorary Degrees Screening Committee, I write to encourage you, in consultation with your colleagues, to consider nominating individuals whose achievements or contributions would merit the highly selective award of an honorary degree from the University. The criteria established by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents calls for granting awards "only in recognition of extraordinary achievement in such fields as science and technology, the arts and humanities, business and public service; or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, state, nation, or world." Awarding honorary degrees provides an opportunity to reward excellence and to bring additional prestige to the University.

The details of the nominating procedure are described in the materials enclosed with this memorandum.

The attached nomination form is due in my office on or before March 14, 2008. All nominations will be treated confidentially by the committee.

If you have any questions, please contact my assistant, Mechelle Gibson, or me at 405.325.3228.

Attachments

Call for Nominations
University of Oklahoma Honorary Degrees
To Be Conferred May 2009

Nominations are invited on or before **March 14, 2008**, for the award of University of Oklahoma honorary degrees. The Board of Regents at the University of Oklahoma has authorized honorary degrees to be awarded under the following terms:

It is the intent of the University of Oklahoma to award honorary degrees only in recognition of extraordinary achievement in such fields as science and technology, the arts and humanities, business and public service; or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, state, nation or world. Recipients may be an alumnus or any individual who has made outstanding contributions to a field or profession represented at the University of Oklahoma.

Nominations may be made by any individual, although no individual may nominate himself or herself. Honorary degrees shall not be conferred on any faculty member, administrator, or other official associated with the University before such individual has been separated from the institution for at least two years; nor awarded to any individual currently in state government. Honorary degrees will not be awarded in absentia unless extraordinary circumstances (as determined by the President) exist.

Nominations should be accompanied by the following:

- A vitae or complete biographical sketch describing education, experience, professional activities, appointments, honors, previous honorary degree awards, and all other information pertinent to the awarding of an honorary degree.
- At least three letters of endorsement (in addition to the nominator's narrative) supporting the nominations. The choice of references should manifest the breadth of reputation of the nominee.
- Additional pertinent information.

All nominations are treated confidentially by the Honorary Degrees Screening Committee.

The completed nomination form is due by **March 14, 2008**, to Senior Vice President and Provost Nancy L. Mergler, Ph.D., Chair, Honorary Degrees Screening Committee, Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, 660 Parrington Oval, Room 104, Norman, Oklahoma, 73019. Additional materials supporting the nomination and a dossier may be forwarded at that time, but no later than April 4, 2008, to ensure consideration by the committee.