

## **Simpson College Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees** *(approved 5/16/14 board meeting)*

It is the policy of Simpson College to award honorary degrees (B.A., M.A., and Ph.D.) to individuals of significant merit, achievement, and association with the College. Only the Board of Trustees of the College is authorized to award honorary degrees. They do so under the power outlined in Article I, Section 4 of the Simpson College Bylaws.

### **Criteria**

- A. An honorary degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies the following criteria:
  - Eminence, in the course of a career, in some field of scholarship, in public service, or in an artistic, literary, governmental, religious, financial endeavor; and
  - An appropriate and significant relationship with the College and/or the mission of the college.

### **Procedures**

- A. Nominations for honorary degree may be made by faculty, the administration, or the students of the College.
- B. Nominations and rationale describing how the person meets the criteria for honorary degree and the type of degree (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) to be awarded will normally be sent to the president of the College.
- C. If the president agrees that the degree should be awarded, she or he will send the nomination to the Faculty Personnel Committee (or other committee as designated by the faculty) with a letter of support and rationale.
- D. The Faculty Personnel Committee will review the president's request and forward it on to the full faculty with the committee's recommendation. The recommendation shall be positive or negative.
- E. The faculty will vote at its next regularly scheduled meeting, at a meeting specially called for the purpose of voting on the recommendation, or in some other manner to be determined by the Faculty Personnel Committee.
- F. The president will convey the vote of the faculty to the Board of Trustees of the College.
- G. The Board of Trustees will make the final decision at a regularly scheduled meeting, at a meeting specially called for the purpose of voting on the recommendation, or in some other manner to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

### **Expiration of the Board's Approval**

Once approved by the Board of Trustees, the honorary degree must be awarded to the recipient within two years of its original approval. Should this time lapse, the Board of Trustees must reapprove awarding the degree.

### **Prohibition on Fees and Honoraria**

Except under unusual circumstances determined by the Board of Trustees, an honorary degree recipient will not receive a fee or honorarium associated with receiving a degree. An honorary degree recipient may receive an honorarium or speaking fee for a speech or presentation at the event when the honorary degree is awarded.

### **Presentation of Honorary Degrees**

Except in unusual circumstances determined by the Board of Trustees, recipients of honorary degrees must be present on one of the College's campuses to receive a degree.