Reference Number: S91-171  
Senate Approval Date: Tuesday, January 01, 1991  
ALL-UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Academic Senate Policy S91-171

At its meeting of May 14, 1991, the Academic Senate approved the following policy establishing an All-University Committee on Honorary Degrees:

**BACKGROUND.** All earned degrees granted in the California State University are awarded "upon recommendation of the faculty." All honorary degrees are granted by the Trustees of the California State University following the procedure outlined in the Trustees' Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Degrees. These Guidelines specify that all recommendations originating in any of the campus committees shall be submitted through the President, and that the President shall establish a committee to review the recommendations and assist in the compilation of materials in support of the campus nominations.

In October, 1989, the California State University Academic Senate, in its resolution "Campus Faculty Involvement in Awarding Honorary Degrees," AS-1898-89/FA, recommended that "at least three faculty selected according to procedures established by the campus Senate will serve on the campus committee."

**SCOPE AND CRITERIA.** In the CSU, honorary degrees may be awarded for the following purposes: to recognize excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are embodied the objectives and ideals of the California State University; to honor meritorious and outstanding service to the California State University, collectively, or to its campuses, individually, to the State of California, to the United States, or to humanity at large; to recognize men and women whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of the California State University's aspirations for
its diverse student body. Nominees for honorary degrees must be distinguished in their respective fields, and the eminence of persons nominated must be widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education, and with the highest ideals of the persons' chosen fields.

**COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE/MEMBERSHIP.** The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall have nine members. It shall be an on-going body. The length of term for each member shall be two years (the first all-University election will produce staggered terms: two faculty will be elected for two-year terms and the third for a one-year term.) The committee shall elect one of its members to be the chair. Support staff shall be provided by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Committee members shall be as follows:

- One representative from the Alumni Council (appointed by that group);
- Three members of the teaching faculty elected in an all-University election;
- Two members appointed by the President of the University;
- One member appointed by the Staff Council;
- One member appointed by the Associated Students;
- One member appointed by the SFSU Retirement Association.