

University Constitution Committee

Agenda

Thursday October 12, 2006
3:00-5:00 PM 354 Tigert Hall

1. Approval of Minutes from last meeting.
2. Draft language for the Honorary Degrees Committee and discussion about the committee's activity and Florida Sunshine Laws. (See attached memos)
3. Rectifying inconsistencies in Regulations, Constitution and Faculty Senate Bylaws
4. Changing the internal structure of the Constitution Committee to include a Chair-elect and past-Chair
5. Other business



The Faculty Senate

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To: Committee on Committees

From: Danaya Wright, Chair of Faculty Senate

Date: August 2, 2006

Subject: Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Alumnus Awards and Memorials Committee

In reviewing the functions of the HDDAAM Committee with representatives from the President's office, I thought it made sense to make a few changes to the structure and function of this committee. I will list the changes and would ask that you let me know if your committee approves of them in time to get them before the Senate for the September (information) and October (action) meetings.

1. Change the name of the committee to the Honorary Degrees, Awards, and Memorials Committee – this reflects the fact that the committee currently reviews Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Achievement Awards, the Stephen C. O'Connell Distinguished Service Award, and namings for University buildings.
2. Change the committee from a Senate Standing Committee to a Joint Committee to reflect that only Honorary Degrees come before the Senate. Committee recommendations for the other awards and memorials go directly to the President and the Senate has no involvement in those.
3. Change the composition of the committee from 8 elected faculty members, to 6 elected faculty members (elected by the Senate) and 3 members appointed by the President. Currently the President has 4 administrative ex-officio non-voting members. The new presidential members would be voting members.

4. Specify that the definition of “faculty members” who are currently excluded from receiving Honorary Degrees include emeritus faculty.

5. Have all nomination packets go to the President’s office where minutes and records of the committee will be kept for public records purposes, in keeping with the proportion of Senate to presidential functions.

6. Change the Constitution and By-laws accordingly to make this a Joint Committee, change the composition, and clarify the functions and procedures for nominations.

I look forward to receiving your committee’s comments about these recommendations at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

CC: President J. Bernie Machen
 Saeed Khan, Chair Honorary Degrees Committee
 Constitution Committee

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To: Committee on Committees

From: Danaya Wright, Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: September 26, 2006

CC: President J. Bernie Machen, Senate Steering Committee, Constitution
Committee, Honorary Degrees Committee

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[www.senate.](http://www.senate)

Thank you for your consideration of the relatively procedural recommendations to changes in the Honorary Degrees Committee (HDC) that followed from my memo of August 6, 2006. After discussion with the Steering Committee, we would like you to consider more widely the function of the HDC, particularly whether the faculty senate involvement in the granting of honorary degrees is appropriate and whether the lack of senate involvement in the determination of distinguished alumni awards, distinguished service awards, and namings is appropriate.

As things currently stand, the HDC is made up of 8 elected faculty members and 4-6 ex-officio non-voting members appointed by the president, it is a standing committee of the Senate, and makes recommendations to the senate on matters of honorary degrees. It also makes recommendations to the President on distinguished alumnus and service awards and on namings and memorials. These latter items do not go before the Senate. Furthermore, the Senate's vote on honorary degrees is merely advisory to the president who can accept or decline the recommendation.

Questions were raised at the Steering Committee as to whether faculty should be more involved, presumably through a Senate vote, in the distinguished alumnus and service awards and/or namings and memorials. If so, should the vote occur before the President receives the nominations or afterward? Similarly, the President has agreed that he should forward the names of honorary degree recipients to the Senate after approving them rather than the current process which has the Senate vote come first in order to avoid any embarrassment that might be caused by a negative vote in the Senate or a presidential

override of a senate vote. The President is also sensitive to the role of the BOT and alumni in the distinguished awards and namings and would like to see some participation of alumni and/or trustees on the HDC.

Because my earlier memo merely asked you to consider the procedural issues of renaming the committee, and changing it to a joint committee rather than a standing committee, the scope of the committee's functions were not addressed. We would like for you to consider the full range of issues expressed above, as well as any others you think are relevant, in considering the general question of how, if at all, the faculty should participate in the granting of honorary degrees, distinguished service and alumni awards, and namings and memorials.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.