

## **Brock University Procedures and Guidelines for Honorary Degrees**

### **Introduction**

Brock University grants an Honorary Degree to individuals whom it recognizes as having an established record of distinguished achievement and remarkable service, who support the values of advanced learning and the pursuit of knowledge, and whose acceptance of the honour would bring acclaim to the University. By the awarding of Honorary Degrees, Brock University aims to contribute to the recognition and celebration of excellence in society in a manner that reflects our own special character and values within the community and the world.

Recipients of Honorary degrees become honorary alumni of the University and receive all Alumni publications.

### **Criteria for Selecting Candidates**

Honorary degrees are awarded on the basis of merit in two broad areas described below.

1. For those who have displayed excellence in achievements that we believe deserve recognition. Such awards may be based on meritorious public or humanitarian contribution to the University, Niagara Region, Province, the nation or the international community, and outstanding achievement and/or service in any particular area of interest to Brock University.
2. For those whose ongoing high quality scholarly and/or creative work is deemed to be of such significance that our recognition is deserved.

The following limitations apply in the selection of nominees for an Honorary Degree:

1. Current members of the Board of Trustees or current Brock University employees are not eligible for Honorary Degrees.
2. Past members of the Board of Trustees or past Brock University employees are not considered for Honorary Degrees until they have vacated their positions for at least three years.
3. Active politicians are not considered for Honorary Degrees.
4. An Honorary Degree will not be granted in absentia or posthumously.

## **Procedures for Nominating and Selecting Candidates for Honorary Degrees**

1. Nominations must be submitted using the nomination form and must include:
  - Information about the Nominee Nomination – Provides relevant background that supports the application such as career summary, curriculum vitae, accomplishments, links, articles, etc.
  - Rationale for the Nomination – Provides a rationale as it relates to the selected criteria for the nomination.
  - At least two statements of support- Strong supporting letters are particularly helpful when they offer more than a brief endorsement. Letters that provide substantive insight—either from individuals with first-hand knowledge of the nominee’s contributions or from those with relevant expertise who can speak meaningfully to the significance of the nominee’s work—greatly assist the Committee in its deliberations. More detailed letters help ensure that the Committee fully understands the nominee’s accomplishments within their field and the broader community.
  - Additional materials to support the nomination such as:
    - Additional letters of support
    - Links to news articles or websites
    - Publications
    - Other materials that highlight the nominee’s achievements and impact.
2. It is important that nominees not be informed of their candidacy. Nominations will be held confidentially by the Office of the University Secretariat
3. Nominations will be presented to the Senate Governance Committee which will review *in camera*, The Senate Governance Committee will vote *in camera* to recommend, deny or defer the nomination.
4. Recommended nominations will be forwarded to Senate, *in camera* for its consideration. The outcome of the consideration of the nomination by the Senate Governance Committee and Senate will remain in confidence
5. Nominees approved by Senate will be added to the University’s *List of Proposed Honorary Degree Recipients*. For each convocation for which an Honorary Degree will be awarded, the President will select recipients from the List.

## **Making a Nomination**

Nominations for Honorary Degrees may be submitted to the University Secretary by any member of the University community or the public using the nomination form available on the University Secretariat website at [www.brocku.ca/secretariat/senate](http://www.brocku.ca/secretariat/senate).

If the nominee accepts the offer of an Honorary Degree from the President, the nominator may be notified of the selection.\*

*\*Nominators may indicate on the nomination form to remain anonymous.*

## **Denied Nominations**

Denied nominations will not be forwarded to Senate for consideration and will not be considered again by the Committee unless a new nomination is received.

Nominators are encouraged to submit an updated nomination package if their nominee has not been granted an honorary degree in 5 years and to include any significant accomplishments achieved since the initial application.

## **Deferred Nominations**

Nominations placed on the deferred list will not be forwarded to Senate for consideration but will instead be reconsidered by the Governance Committee when it next considers Honorary Degree nominations. Nominees will remain eligible for reconsideration as part of the deferred list for up to one year from the date the nomination was first considered by the Governance Committee. If not selected for recommendation to Senate or denied within the one-year period, the name will be removed from the deferred list.

## **Removal of a Nominee**

If, after five years from the date of Senate's approval, a person has not been awarded an Honorary Degree, the nomination will be re-considered by the Senate Governance Committee *in camera*. The Committee may recommend removal of the nominee from the List or that the nominee remains on the List for a further five years. In cases where the recommendation is for removal from the List, the committee will document its reasons in detail and communicate

those reasons to Senate for final approval of removal from the List. A nomination will automatically be removed from the List of Proposed Honorary Degree Recipients if not selected within 10 years of the original Senate approval date.

Nominators may request to withdraw their nomination. If the nomination has already been considered by the Governance Committee, the Governance Committee shall determine whether the nominator's withdrawal affects the outcome of the nomination.

A candidate who refuses the invitation for an Honorary Degree will be removed from the List of Proposed Honorary Degree Recipients and the President shall advise Senate accordingly.

### **Revocation of an Honorary Degree**

Revocation is only available for Honorary Degrees awarded where a recommendation to do so is initiated by the President, has been presented to Senate Governance Committee for its consideration and recommended to Senate for its approval.

The Brock Community may communicate requests for the revocation of an honorary degree to either the University Secretariat or the President. For the purposes of this mechanism the University community is identified as follows: faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees.

#### **Step 1 - University Secretariat**

- The University Secretariat will receive direction for how to proceed on requests for revocation from the President. The President has sole authority for initiating a recommendation to revoke for review by Senate Governance Committee and possible recommendation to Senate for approval.

#### **Step 2 – Information Report to Senate**

- The University Secretariat may submit a report to Senate Governance Committee with the recommendation of the President to revoke.
- The Senate Governance Committee shall consider confidentially the recommendation of the President and the associated report provided by the University Secretariat.
- The motion within the Report shall be reviewed and considered at the earliest opportunity by the Senate Governance Committee.

### **Step 3 – Senate**

- The Senate shall consider and vote on any positive recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee and the associated report provided by the University Secretariat in confidence at the earliest opportunity.
- The outcome of the Senate's review and vote will be confidential until communicated publicly by the President.

**Approved by Senate:** February 15, 2023  
**Amended by Senate:** May 6, 2026