

UMKC SENATE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Draft for UMKC Faculty Senate Operating Procedures for evaluation of nominations for Honorary Degrees at UMKC, based on the Collected Rules & Regulations of the University of Missouri (sec. 220.030, 5/88) and 1991 UMKC procedures.

The standing Academic Issues Committee of the Faculty Senate functions as the Committee on Honorary Degrees. Current chair and composition of this committee can be found on the Faculty Senate website at <http://www.umkc.edu/fsenate/SenCom.html>

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1. Nominations for an honorary degree can be proposed by the faculty of a department or academic unit. The nomination should be submitted to the Dean of the unit with a supportive resolution of the faculty of the unit and with supporting documentation and letters of recommendation.

Nominations received from a non-faculty member are to be submitted to the faculty of the appropriate faculty unit for its consideration and action, if appropriate.

2. The Dean forwards the faculty resolution nominating the honorary degree candidate along with supporting documentation and with the Dean's recommendation to the Provost.
3. The Provost sends the nomination with documentation and recommendations to the Chancellor and to the chair of the Academic Issues Committee of the UMKC Faculty Senate.
4. The Senate Committee analyzes the submitted nomination, documentation and recommendations and drafts a formal resolution.
5. The UMKC Faculty Senate in a regularly scheduled meeting discusses the resolution in closed session and votes for approval or disapproval. Based on this action, the Senate then makes a formal recommendation to the Chancellor.
6. The Chancellor forwards an approved nomination with documentation and recommendations to the President and the Board of Curators. Usually this must be done by February 1 for May commencement, by May 1 for summer commencement or by October 1 for December commencement.
7. The President consults informally with Board of Curators to see if there are any objections.
8. After consulting with the Curators, the President returns a list of acceptable nominees to the Chancellor for transmission to the Faculty Senate Committee.
9. Invitations to the recipients are extended by the President.
10. All matters relating to individuals under consideration for honorary degrees are treated as confidential until after public announcement by the President and Chancellor.
11. An honorary degree is conferred upon the recipient during a commencement ceremony.

No strict timelines or deadlines have been set for the UMKC process of nomination. It is prudent to allow 4 - 8 weeks for steps 2 - 5 prior to the submission deadline of step 6.

The Committee will generally recommend, upon request of the nominating faculty, from among the following Honorary Doctoral Degrees:

Com. D. - Doctor of Commerce

LL. D. - Doctor of Laws

D. F. A. - Doctor of Fine Arts

Mus. D. - Doctor of Music

D. Litt. - Doctor of Letters

Ped. D. - Doctor of Pedagogy

L. H. D. - Doctor of Humane Letters

Sc. D. - Doctor of Sciences

In general, doctoral degrees earned at UMKC and doctoral degrees clearly associated with professional competencies like M.D., Ph.D. or J.D. will not be acceptable as honorary doctorates.

A list of previous recipients of Honorary Doctorate Degrees from UMKC is maintained on the UMKC Faculty Senate website (<http://www.umkc.edu/fsenate/FacRes.html>).

Nominations for Honorary Doctoral Degrees shall not be accepted for members of the University faculty, staff, members of the University Board of Curators, the Governor, or any other elected officials or state employees concerned with the function or control of the University, so long as the relationship exists.

UMKC will not award an honorary degree to a nominee who has previously been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Missouri.

Involvement in the educational system of UMKC at some time during the career of the nominee typically contributes to a positive recommendation for an honorary degree.