



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

DATE: March 19, 2024

TITLE: Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees (Second Reading)

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Satasha Green-Stephens, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

PURPOSE

Board Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration, Part 6. Board Policies and System Procedures requires board review and approval of proposed board policy changes and that each board policy is reviewed at least once every five years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed amendment consists of two technical edits in Part 1. Purpose - deleted the "s" at the end of "authorizes" and "provides".

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendment to Policy 3.18.

Date Presented to the ASA Committee: 03/29/24

Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: 03/20/24

Date of Implementation: 03/20/24

PROPOSED CHANGES (SECOND READING DRAFT)

Single underlining represents proposed new language.

Strikeouts represent existing language proposed to be removed.

1 **3.18 Honorary Degrees**

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3 **Part 1. Purpose**

4 To establish the rationale for honorary degrees, authorizes colleges and universities to grant honorary
5 degrees, and provides standards and guidelines under which honorary degrees will be conferred.

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7 **Part 2. Definition**

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9 **Honorary degree**

10 A degree awarded as an honor for an outstanding contribution in some field, rather than as
11 the result of matriculating and earning a degree based on studies at the college or
12 university.

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14 **Part 3. Rationale**

15 The rationale for honorary degrees is to:

- 16 1. recognize and honor persons who have made exceptional contributions to a specific field or to
17 society in general;
- 18 2. establish a public association between Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and such
19 exceptional persons, thereby providing testimony to the values and quality of the state colleges
20 and universities; and
- 21 3. assist the state colleges and universities with the goals and objectives of their educational
22 programming, their service and outreach missions, and their institutional advancement.

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24 **Part 4. Authorization**

25 Colleges and universities may confer honorary degrees according to procedures established by,
26 and with the approval of, the chancellor.

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28 **Part 5. Internal Process**

29 A college or university choosing to award an honorary degree shall establish its own internal
30 process for determining honorary degree recipients consistent with the chancellor's procedure.

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32 **Part 6. Limits to Eligible Recipients**

33 Honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty or staff members within
34 the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, current members of the Board of
35 Trustees, or current holders of elected political office.

36

37 **Part 7. Report to Board**

38 The chancellor shall provide an annual report to the board on honorary degrees awarded. The
39 report shall include information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients,
40 and degree designations. Colleges and universities shall report to the system office on the
41 honorary degrees awarded each year.

Related Documents:

- [Procedure 3.18.1](#) Honorary Degrees
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Policy History:

Date of Adoption: 10/16/96

Date of Implementation: 10/16/96

Date of Last Review: 05/22/19

Date & Subject of Amendments:

Xx/xx/24 – Full review, technical edits made in Part 1. Purpose consisting of deleting the “s” at the end of “authorizes” and “provides”.

5/22/19 - Regular review, technical edits.

5/22/13 - minor amendments throughout. Amended Part 7 to require that the chancellor report honorary degrees to the Board annually rather than twice a year and further amends Part 7 to require that colleges and universities report to the system office the honorary degrees that are awarded each year.

Additional [HISTORY](#).