

## **A61.3.1** A61.12 **Honorary Degree Sub-Committee**

Approved By: Faculty Senate

Last Updated: November 22, 2011 **Draft 3/11/20**

Responsible Faculty Committee: Senate Graduate and Professional Committee

Office Responsible for Administration: Office of the University Secretary

**Legend** Proposed Additions are highlighted in **red** and proposed deletions are in ~~strikeout~~.

Revisions to the Policy Rationale, Policy Statement, and Applicability sections of this document must be approved by the full Faculty Senate.

### POLICY RATIONALE

The Honorary Degree Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Senate Graduate **and Professional** Committee (SGPC).

### POLICY STATEMENT

Early in each academic year, the Honorary Degree **Sub**committee makes nominations for the awarding of honorary degrees in accordance with ~~the policy provided below~~ **Regents' Policy (RPM) 1.6 "Special Recognition and Awards."** Further information on awarding honorary degrees and other types of special recognition can be obtained from **RPM 1.6.** ~~"Special Recognition and Awards."~~ ~~Section 1.6, Regents' Policy Manual.~~

Membership: Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Board of Regents; two (2) members of the general faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate (**two**-year terms) two (2) members of the general faculty appointed by the SGPC (**two**-year terms) the UNM President and the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (**GPSA**). Additionally, the President of the Board of Regents and the Secretary of the University shall be ex-officio members, the Secretary to serve as Secretary of the Committee. The Committee shall elect its own chairman from among the faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate and the SGPC.

Operating guidelines: Each year, the Honorary Degree Committee shall solicit nominations for honorary degrees from any source they deem proper. However, a great emphasis should be placed on nominees whose contributions are to UNM, New Mexico, or the southwest. The Honorary Degree Committee shall decide if an honorary degree is to be given for any particular year. If no selection is made, the SGPC, the Faculty Senate, and the **Board of** Regents will be so notified. If the Honorary Degree Committee decides there are appropriate candidates--to a maximum of three (3) annually--they may make a selection or selections and shall present the names of the nominees to the SGPC for confidential approval or disapproval of any or all names. If SGPC's approval is forthcoming for any or all of the nominees, the names shall be submitted to the Faculty Senate for confidential approval no later than at the **January** ~~February~~

meeting. Names of nominees approved by the Faculty Senate shall then be submitted to the Board of Regents, through the appropriate Regent Committee, for formal approval at their Commencement meeting. (However, approval of the Regents not on the Honorary Degree Committee must be secured informally before names are submitted to the SGPC.) Disapproval of all names by the SGPC, the Faculty Senate, or the Regents stops the process at that point for that year. New nominations from the SGPC, the Faculty Senate, or the Regents will only be considered by the Honorary Degree Committee for a subsequent year.

**~~Policy for Awarding Honorary Degrees~~ NOTE: Delete because it just duplicates RPM 1.6**

*~~Approved, Faculty 10/21/51; Approved, Regents 03/10/52; Amended, 12/17/63; Amended, 02/23/67; Amended, 1/14/69; Amended, 05/12/92; Amended and Approved, Regents 11/14/96.~~*

~~The University of New Mexico wishes to recognize and thereby encourage individuals by awarding special honors to those persons who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. At the same time, due regard should be paid to eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographic limitations. In no case should a passing courtesy to the University of New Mexico, such as the delivery of a commencement address, be the sole or principal cause for such honorary awards. The award of an honorary degree to a person seeking or holding a political office does not indicate endorsement by the University of New Mexico. Political involvement should not prevent selection of an individual for an honorary degree.~~

~~It is not the University's policy to award honorary degrees to active members of the faculty, staff, or administration. This does not preclude, in an exceptional case, the awarding of an honorary degree to an emeritus member of the faculty or to a former employee whose stature remains or becomes eminent in the years following active service with the University. In such exceptions, sufficient time shall have elapsed to ensure objectivity in the process of selection.~~

~~Honorary degrees will be awarded only upon the approval of the Regents, based on recommendations from the Honorary Degree Committee, whose membership is set out in the Faculty Handbook.~~

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## APPLICABILITY

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All UNM faculty, including the Health Sciences Center and Branch Community Colleges.

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## DEFINITIONS

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No specific definitions are required for the Policy Statement.

Revisions to the remaining sections of this document may be amended with the approval of the Faculty Senate Policy and Operations Committee in consultation with the responsible Faculty Senate Committee listed in Policy Heading.
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## WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY

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- Academic chairs, directors, and deans
- Non-academic managers and directors
- Vice presidents and other executives

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

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[Regents' Policy \(RPM\) 1.6 "Special Recognition and Awards."](#)

*Faculty Handbook:* Note: Committee Charges Policy numbers are being changed to align with their respective Council per the new Faculty Senate Restructure

[Policy A51](#) "Faculty Constitution"

[Policy A53](#) "Development and Approval of Faculty Policies"

[Policy A60](#) "Faculty Senate Bylaws"

[Policy A60.1](#) "Faculty Senate Councils and Committees"

[Policy A61](#) "Academic Council"

[Policy A61.3](#) "Senate Graduate and Professional Committee (SGPC)"

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## CONTACTS

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Direct any questions about this policy to the UNM Office of the University Secretary.

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## PROCEDURES

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[The Honorary Degree Subcommittee will schedule regular meetings. The Chair will report subcommittee recommendations through the SGPC for consideration for approval by the Faculty Senate.](#)

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## HISTORY

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March 22, 2011 – Approved by Faculty Senate

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## DRAFT HISTORY

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[October 9, 2019 – Draft updated to include recommendation for 3-year terms.](#)

March 12, 2019—Draft updated recent updates since 5/5/17 per Faculty Senate action.

May 10, 2017 –Minor revisions to and renumbering of the policy to address changes to Policy A60 "Faculty Senate Bylaws" resulting from reorganization of the Faculty Senate. Also replaced copy of portion of Regents Policy 1.6 with a link to Regents Policy 1.6.