

SEN14D017

Title: Honorary Degrees and Appointments Committee – changes in membership
Author: Dr Andrea Blanchflower, Ms Lisa Williams
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Issue

To amend the membership of the University's Honorary Degrees and Appointments Committee to make it more representative of the University population, thereby generating a more diverse range of nominees considered for the award of Honorary degrees.

Recommendation

Recipients are invited to consider:

- (1) the proposals for revising the Committee membership
- (2) the method for recruiting the Committee Chair.

Resource Implications

By increasing the membership of the Committee and a new mode of operation slightly more resourcing in terms of staff time will be required.

Risk Implications

The proposal will have no impact upon the overall level of risk facing the University.

Equality and Diversity

The proposals have been designed to enhance equality and diversity in terms of expanding the Committee membership and in making it more representative of the University body. In addition by advertising the opportunity of Chairing the Committee equality of opportunity will be given to staff.

Timing of decisions

With Senate's approval the new membership and mode of operation would be introduced in 2015/16.

Further Information

For further information please contact Ms Lisa Williams (lisa.williams@uea.ac.uk, x2229) and/or Dr Andrea Blanchflower (a.blanchflower@uea.ac.uk x2618)

Background

The Honorary Degrees and Appointments Committee is a sub-committee of Senate. The Vice Chancellor outlined at the last Senate meeting his wish for Senate to consider a proposal to change the Committee membership with a view to decrease the membership by colleagues who were also members of the University's Executive team and increase the representation of the wider University community.

The membership of the Committee is detailed in the UEA Calendar.

The Vice Chancellor (Chair) – ex officio

The Pro-Vice Chancellors – ex officio

One member from each of the four Faculties nominated by the Faculty Executives.

The Committee members for 2014/15 were reported as follows:

The Vice Chancellor (Chair) – Professor D J Richardson

The Pro-Vice Chancellors – Professor N Ward and Professor D Petley

One member from each of the four Faculties nominated by the Faculty Executives.

Professor L Stonebridge - HUM (2017)

Professor I Harvey – FMH (2015)
Professor P Gilmartin - SCI (2016)
Professor J Collier - SSF (2016)
Plus Professor CWE Bigsby who was co-opted as a member for 2014/15

Secretary: a member of staff from the Vice Chancellor's Office

In November 2014 Senate resolved to increase the membership to include one representative from the Students Union. (SEN – M4 05.11.2014 Min. 8 - document SEN 14D007).

The Committee's terms of reference are as follows:

1. To make recommendations to the Senate concerning the establishment and grant of honorary degrees, the title of Professor Emeritus or other University distinctions
1. To recommend to the Senate the appointment of a Public Orator.
2. To recommend to the Senate arrangements for degree Congregations and the confirmation of degrees.
3. To grant the title of Honorary Fellow of the University to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the life and work of the University and to determine the procedures for initiating and considering nominations and the granting of the title.

The Committee currently meets twice each year and all members of the Committee undertake work in support of the Committee, such as enquiries and consultation exercises, between meetings. The main focus of the work is to consider nominations of candidates for the award of Honorary degrees and awards put forward by the University community of staff, students and alumni, and to scrutinise them and bring forward recommendations to Senate of candidates who the University may wish to honour in this way. Going forward the Committee will be encouraged to consider better ways of generating a more diverse pool of nominations. Currently nominations are sought from all staff (via Heads of school and staff ebulletin) in the autumn, 18 months prior to an award. Nominations may be made via email to the secretary or via an online nomination form.

An **honorary degree** or a degree *honoris causa* (Latin: "for the sake of the honor") is an academic award conferred as a way of honouring a distinguished visitor's contributions to a specific field or to society in general. It is also hoped that the University may derive benefits by association with the person in question. Nominations may be made for a number of reasons - links with UEA, outstanding personal record of achievement, links with a School of Study, links with the region. Nominators are asked to indicate any areas where they believe the individual nominated might advance the University's aims and objectives in the future.

Discussion

The proposed membership, which would expand the Committee to having 10-12 members, is as follows:

- Chair – a member of the UEA professoriate
- One academic representative from each of the four Faculties nominated by the relevant Faculty Executive, and who should not be the Dean.
- Two members nominated by Senate from its own membership
- Up to two members co-opted by the Chair as required
- A representative of the Student Union
- Director of Development and Campaigns
- Assistant Head of Alumni, Conferences and Events

Secretary: A member of staff from the Planning Office.

It is proposed that the Chair be appointed following an internal recruitment and selection exercise.

Representation from the Development and Alumni/Events teams would, it is hoped, lead to increased coordination between development and alumni relations and decisions regarding the award of honorary degrees.