

Operational Guidelines for the Revocation of Honorary Degrees

1. Purpose

- 1.1 These guidelines outline the general process for receiving and making a determination on a request for the revocation of an Honorary Degree, as provided for in, and in accordance with, section 7 of the HDCC Guidelines.

2. Procedure

- 2.1 Requests for the revocation of an Honorary Degree are initiated by members of the University community or community-at-large and shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chair of the HDCC, with copy to both the Principal and Vice-Chancellor and the Secretary-General.
- 2.2 The Principal and Vice-Chancellor may initiate a request based on information available to the Principal, in consultation with the Chair of the HDCC and the Secretary-General.

3. Preliminary Review of Request for Revocation of an Honorary Degree

- 3.1 Upon receipt of a request to revoke an Honorary Degree, the Chair of the HDCC, in consultation with the Principal and Vice-Chancellor and the Secretary-General, shall determine whether the request presents sufficient information and reason to proceed to a full and formal consideration.
- 3.2 The determination at section 3.1 revolves around whether the words or deeds alleged in the request would be prejudicial to the University's reputation or in contradiction to its mission and principles.
- 3.3 For the purposes of reviewing the request under section 3.1, the Chair of the HDCC may, at their discretion, ask for additional supporting information, documents or materials.
- 3.4 Consistent with the University's commitment to academic freedom and to freedom of expression within the law, disagreement with views expressed by a recipient is not, in and of itself, grounds for review or revocation. The Chair of the HDCC shall seek advice or information from the Provost and Vice-

4. Review by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Confidentiality

- 4.1. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee meets in closed session. All documents and deliberations of the Subcommittee will be treated in strict confidence by the Subcommittee, the HDCC and Senate.

Mandate

- 4.2. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee is to review the words or deeds alleged in a request with objective to determine whether maintaining the Honorary Degree at issue would prejudice the University's reputation or contradict its mission, principles and values. To that end, the Subcommittee may question whether maintaining the conferral of the Honorary Degree:

- a. calls into question the original rationale for conferring the Honorary Degree;
- b. constitutes an abuse of the rights and privileges associated with the Honorary Degree;
- c. runs counter to the University's mission and principles or undermines its work; or
- d. risks significant damage to the reputation and distinction of the University.

Special Advice and Legal Assistance

- 4.3. The Chair of the HDCC, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, may appoint a Special Advisor with relevant expertise drawn from within the University community or beyond.
- 4.4. At the request of the Chair, the Special Advisor may, with due regard for the privacy of the recipient:

- a. assist the Subcommittee in the solicitation, collection, and assessment of materials relevant to the review.
- b. facilitate any consultations with any stakeholder groups, both internal and external to the University, from which the Subcommittee wishes to solicit representations it deems relevant to its review.

Notice of Review

- 4.5. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee, through the Secretary-General, shall notify the recipient of the Honorary Degree that a request to revoke their award is under consideration. In such circumstances, and if relevant, this notice shall advise the recipient that they may provide pertinent information respecting the matter within the time period prescribed in the notice.
- 4.6. At the discretion of the Principal, a notice of review may be communicated to the University community.

