

## HONORARY DEGREES

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POLICY NUMBER	ED 16-2
APPROVAL DATE	MAY 25, 2015
PREVIOUS AMENDMENT	FEBRUARY 1, 2014
REVIEW DATE	MAY 25, 2020
AUTHORITY	SENATE
PRIMARY CONTACT	PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

### **POLICY**

Honorary Degrees are awarded by the Board of Governors of Thompson Rivers University (TRU) on the recommendation of the Senate.

The Honorary Doctorate is the highest form of recognition offered by TRU and is awarded for demonstrated excellence in the fields of public affairs, the sciences, arts, humanities, business, law and philanthropy.

Recipients of Honorary Doctorates must be distinguished, with achievements both relevant and appropriate to TRU. Eligibility for nomination is restricted to persons of provincial, national or international stature. Nominees who have made extraordinary contributions to TRU will be welcomed, but must also have made significant contributions beyond TRU and its local region. Notwithstanding this policy, the Honorary Doctor of Letters may be awarded as recognition for exemplary and distinguished community service, including service to TRU.

Honorary degrees are not awarded as earned degrees.

Nominees shall not be current members of the TRU Board of Governors, employees of TRU, or individuals who have direct political, legal or budgetary authority over TRU.

Honorary Degrees shall not be awarded in consideration of any past, present or future gift or other benefaction to TRU.

The number of Honorary Degrees awarded shall not be permitted to become so large as to diminish their significance.

## REGULATIONS

### I. DEFINITION AND SCOPE

1. TRU may grant the following Honorary Degrees:
  - a. Honorary Doctor of Laws;
  - b. Honorary Doctor of Letters;
  - c. Honorary Doctor of Technology.
2. The Honorary Doctor of Laws degree normally is bestowed as recognition for achievements in the Professions and Business.
3. The Honorary Doctor of Letters degree normally is bestowed as:
  - a. recognition for achievements in the Arts and Sciences, or
  - b. recognition for exemplary and distinguished community service, including service to TRU.
4. The Honorary Doctor of Technology degree normally is bestowed as recognition for achievements in applied fields.

### II. PRESENTATION and AWARDS

Normally:

1. An Honorary Degree will normally be awarded at each convocation ceremony.
2. Normally, each year, one Honorary Degree will recognize exemplary and distinguished community service, including service to TRU.
3. Honorary Degrees are awarded at TRU Convocation ceremonies. Notwithstanding, circumstances may dictate awards at other times or events.
4. Recipients of Honorary Degrees must agree to attend the Convocation Ceremonies to receive the honor.
5. Recipients of Honorary Degrees will normally be expected to address the Convocation.
6. Arrangements for the award of the Honorary Degree parchment and for participation of the honorees in the ceremony will be made by the Convocation Committee.

### III. NOMINATION

1. The President and Vice-Chancellor shall call for nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees.

2. TRU employees, students, alumni and members of the Board of Governors may make nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees.
3. Nomination shall be by confidential letter submitted to the President and Vice-Chancellor.
4. **Nominators should not discuss nominations with the nominees and nominators should not seek letters of support or references.** The Senate Committee on Awards and Honours will contact the nominator should it require further information.
5. Letters of nomination should refer to the criteria set out in the Honorary Degrees Policy, stating clearly and concisely why the nominee is deserving of the award.
6. Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to: published personality profiles and biographical information (often from the web), media extracts and accounts, and similar sources of information.
7. The deadline for receipt of nominations shall be announced in the Call for Nominations.
8. Nominations will remain active for a minimum of three years.
9. The Awards and Honours Committee may identify additional names to be considered for the award of Honorary Degrees.

#### IV. ASSESSMENT

1. Nominations will be evaluated by the Awards and Honours Committee.
2. Deliberations of the Awards and Honours Committee shall be confidential.
3. The Awards and Honours Committee shall recommend the candidates to the Senate.
4. The Senate shall vote on the recommended candidates during an in-camera session. A two-thirds affirmative vote will be required for confirmation.
5. The names of and documentation on confirmed nominees will be sent to the Board of Governors for approval.
6. The President and Vice-Chancellor will communicate with successful nominees and with the nominators of unsuccessful nominees.
7. The Board of Governors may, upon recommendation by the Senate Honours and Awards Committee, Senate and the President, revoke an Honorary Degree conferred by TRU based on the conduct of the recipient subsequent to the degree being conferred, or prior to the degree being conferred if TRU was unaware of the conduct at the time that the decision to award the Honorary Degree was made.