

RESOLUTION TO REVISE SR #0300 re. HONORARY DEGREES --9/23 rev.

Whereas the Faculty Senate resolved on November 16, 2000, SR No. 0300, to express “its support to the Board of Governors for the awarding of a limited number of honorary degrees per calendar year,” and

Whereas the traditional responsibility of faculty for research, reflection, and instruction, as well as for authorizing degrees, suggests a more active role in the process of considering candidates for said honorary degrees; and

Whereas bachelor’s and master’s degree candidates, with their friends and families, are the community within the University most immediately identified with the high seriousness of granting honorary doctorates in the midst of their own ceremonial graduation;

Whereas both faculty and students customarily and cooperatively engage in inquiry, research, and debate, and

Whereas Faculty Senate and Student Senate serve as the representative bodies of Truman State University’s faculty and students, and are charged with important aspects of University governance;

Be it therefore resolved that SR #0300 be amended (amendments underlined) to read:

Whereas an honorary degree can be used to recognize outstanding achievement in a field, and

Whereas an honorary degree is one way of recognizing those who espouse Truman’s values, and

Whereas the honor of Truman’s values is expressed in the work undertaken by students and faculty, characterized by inquiry, research, and debate, and

Whereas students and faculty comprise the two bodies actively undertaking this work and are organized to represent their views through the Faculty Senate and Student Senate, and

Whereas, the judicious use of honorary degrees can enhance the long-term development of Truman by bringing prominent citizens to campus, by promoting thoughtful deliberation of their prominence, by increasing the visibility of the institution, and by fostering support for the University, and

Whereas any honorary degree awarded by Truman would be clearly identified as such;

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate expresses its support to the Board of Governors for the awarding of a limited number of honorary degrees per calendar year through a process by which candidates may be recommended by the Faculty Senate, Student Senate, or Board of Governors, the degree(s) to be awarded only after all three bodies have had time to review said recommendation(s), and each of the three bodies has approved the recommendation(s) by a majority vote.

Such a process may be facilitated by an ad hoc committee comprised of two members each from Faculty Senate, the Board of Governors, and Student Senate.