To: Purdue University Board of Trustees

From: Debasish Dutta, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Subject: Revised Criteria and Procedures for Honorary Doctorate Nominations

Date: September 18, 2015

At the request of the Academic Affairs Committee in late 2014, the criteria for honorary doctorate candidates and the procedures to nominate and approve honorary doctorate candidates has been reviewed and revised. The attached criteria and procedures were reviewed by Steve Schultz, legal counsel, and Alysa Christmas Rollock, vice president for ethics and compliance, and were subsequently endorsed by the University Senate Faculty Affairs Committee in February 2015. Therefore, we respectfully request approval by the Board of Trustees of these revised criteria and procedures.

APPROVALS:

Debasish Dutta  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity  
Date  

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
President  
Date

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CRITERIA AND NOMINATION PROCESS FOR HONORARY DOCTORATES AT PURDUE

Criteria for the honorary doctorate

Individuals who meet one or more of the following criteria are eligible for an honorary doctorate at Purdue. Generally, a successful candidate will meet two or more of these criteria. Former students, staff or faculty of Purdue University are also eligible for an honorary doctorate.

- **Academic accomplishments and sustained achievements of distinction**: Influential contributions within academia; honors awarded within discipline or for interdisciplinary achievements; significant discoveries and research.

- **Impact and contributions to community/nation/humanity**: extraordinary influence within field, discipline or interdisciplinary work; transformational leadership; entrepreneurially inspired contributions; commercialization efforts that bring elements to life for positive influence; influential and innovative leadership; demonstrated commitment to benefiting society; significant impact on development and mentorship of others.

- **National/global recognition of leadership in field**: highly recognizable within industry or discipline; reputation for positive interactions and collaborations with other leaders and/or universities; highly visible.

- **Commitment, involvement, leadership toward the advancement of Purdue University**: participation and commitment with student body, faculty; on campus speaking/teaching; Old Masters, etc.; generosity toward the evolution of making Purdue University a better place.

- **Distinguished service to the University or the State**: demonstration of distinguished service to Purdue University or to the State of Indiana.

Procedure for nominating and approving a candidate for an honorary doctorate

**West Lafayette Campus**

All nominations for honorary degrees will be reviewed by the appropriate faculty, the dean of the college/school, and the University Promotions Committee. The provost will then review and recommend the final candidates to the president, who in turn will make the formal nomination for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

**Regional Campuses**

All nominations for honorary degrees will be reviewed by the appropriate faculty, the dean of the college/school, and the campus-level promotions committee. The vice chancellor for academic affairs will then review and recommend the final candidates to the chancellor. The chancellor will review the candidates and make a recommendation to the president, who in turn will make the formal nomination for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

**Attendance at commencement ceremony**

Candidates for the honorary doctorate are expected to be present for the awarding of the degree at the appropriate commencement ceremony. Should a candidate not be available, his or her nomination may be carried over to a subsequent year for reconsideration.