

## Senate Recommendation to the Associate Provost

**Originating Body:** Faculty Senate

**Originator:** Senator Erin Weber

**Date Submitted:** 11/26/2025

**Requested Effective Date:** 1/5/2026

**Recommendation:**

The Faculty Senate requests that the Associate Provost (or an appropriate designee) updates the Faculty Handbook in accordance with the attached motion. The Faculty Senate further recommends that the updated procedure for honorary degrees be submitted to the Chancellor's Office in accordance with USM BOR policy III-3.00.

Nominations for honorary degrees must be submitted to the Chancellor by the end of each fall semester. The requested effective date in January is to prevent interfering with any current actions regarding honorary degrees.

**Date Approved by the Faculty Senate:** 11/25/2025

David Keifer

**President, Faculty Senate**

11/25/2025

**Date**

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**Action Taken by Associate Provost**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Recommendation Accepted

☐ Recommendation Not Accepted\*

☐ Recommendation returned to the Originating Body for further review (see attached)

**Disposition for Approved Recommendation:**

☐ President

☐ VP Student Affairs

☐ Faculty Senate President

☐ VP Finance

☐ Consortium Chair

☐ School Deans

☐ Webmaster

☐ Graduate Council

☐ Catalogue Editor

☐ Provost Council

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**Associate Provost**

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**Date**

## SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Updating Faculty Handbook related to Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee and honorary degrees

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Erin Weber

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION: Anita Brown

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MOTION (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

Resolved, the Faculty Senate recommends the following changes to the Faculty Handbook Chapter 1: Honorary Degrees (**highlighted in yellow**):

1. Salisbury University may award honorary degrees at commencement exercises on the basis of recommendation by the **Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee** and approval of the Provost, President and the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.
2. Deadline for nominations to the Chancellor is the end of the fall semester. The Education Policy Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the full Board, which will take action during the February meeting.
3. Care should be taken to ensure strict confidentiality at all stages of the honorary degree process. There should be no communication with prospective degree recipients regarding a likely degree until after the Board of Regents has approved the award. Approvals shall remain confidential until the candidate is notified of their selection. Degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval, unless withdrawn by the Board of Regents for cause.
4. **Students, faculty, administration, and alumni can propose candidates for consideration to the chair of the Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee by November 1st. Once nominations are received, the FARC reviews and makes recommendations to the Provost.**
5. There is no expectation that Salisbury University will award one or more honorary degrees at each commencement exercise.
6. **Normally, honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty, staff, members of the Board of Regents, or current holders of political office (elected or appointed).**
7. **The Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee** may use any or all of the following criteria in selecting candidates it will recommend for honorary degrees:
  - a. The candidate should have, but not necessarily be limited to, some ties to the region predominately served by Salisbury University (e.g., Eastern Shore; Mid-Atlantic).
  - b. Candidates may be considered on the basis of intellectual or academic achievement consistent with the mission of the institution.
  - c. Candidates may be considered on the basis of philanthropic inclination.

### JUSTIFICATION:

To align the Honorary degree awarding process in the Faculty Handbook with the charge of the Faculty Awards and Recognition committee that is stated in the Faculty Senate bylaws.

When FARC was created and approved with the charge of receiving, reviewing, and making recommendations to the provost for honorary degrees, the faculty handbook was not updated at that time to reflect the FS bylaws.

All nominations for an honorary degree must be submitted to the Chancellors office by the end of the fall semester (mid-December). The president's office needs 2-3 weeks to consider and forward the nomination to the chancellor's office. The November 1 deadline, would give FARC ~3 weeks to review and recommend to the provosts office and then an additional ~3 weeks for the president to review and forward the recommendation to the Chancellor.

Existing Handbook language:

"Honorary Degrees

BOR III-3.0

1. Salisbury University may award honorary degrees at commencement exercises on the basis of recommendation by **an ad hoc honorary degree committee** and approval of the Provost, President and the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.
2. Deadline for nominations to the Chancellor is the end of the fall semester. The Education Policy Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the full Board, which will take action during the February meeting.
3. Care should be taken to ensure strict confidentiality at all stages of the honorary degree process. There should be no communication with prospective degree recipients regarding a likely degree until after the Board of Regents has approved the award. Approvals shall remain confidential until the candidate is notified of their selection. Degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval, unless withdrawn by the Board of Regents for cause.
4. Students, faculty, administration and alumni can propose candidates for consideration to the committee. Once nominations are received, the Provost establishes **the Honorary Degree Committee** using a ballot of all tenured, full professors at the University.
5. There is no expectation that Salisbury University will award one or more honorary degrees at each commencement exercise.
6. **It is a practice that the University not award honorary degrees to sitting politicians.**
7. **The Honorary Degree Committee** may use any or all of the following criteria in selecting candidates it will recommend for honorary degrees:
  - a. The candidate should have, but not necessarily be limited to, some ties to the region predominately served by Salisbury University (e.g., Eastern Shore; Mid-Atlantic).
  - b. Candidates may be considered on the basis of intellectual or academic achievement consistent with the mission of the institution.
  - c. Candidates may be considered on the basis of philanthropic inclination."

Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee in the Faculty Senate Bylaws:

"Section 11. Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee:

The purposes of the committee shall be to:

- A. Receive from Faculty, students, and administrators nominations for distinctions, including the Distinguished Faculty Award, presented to eligible Faculty by nonstudent organizations, including USM, regional, national, and international committees, bodies, and organizations;
- B. Develop procedures to evaluate nominations for such distinctions;
- C. Review and submit recommendations to the Provost and President of the University of Faculty to be nominated for these distinctions;
- D. Receive nominations, review and make recommendations, following USM guidelines, to the Provost and President of the University, of candidates for honorary degrees to be granted by the University; and

- E. Explore and advertise additional means of recognition afforded by both on- campus and off-campus sources.

The committee shall have six voting members: one tenured full professor elected by and from each Unit except the Library, and one elected at-large. Additionally Faculty members serving on this committee shall not be eligible for any awards or recognition under the committee's review during the period of their service on the committee."

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative: None

Positive: Makes clear the role of the Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee related to honorary degrees in the Faculty Handbook.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes\_✓\_\_\_\_

No\_\_\_\_\_

Is this a recommendation to someone else? No\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, to \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE: Number of Senators Present:

Motion Passes or Fails: