



Louisiana State University System

3810 West Lakeshore Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Office of the President

225/578-2111
fax 225/578-5524

April 19, 1999

SUBJECT: LSU System Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Degrees – PM-7

This memorandum supersedes PM-7 dated April 5, 1993. (All current Permanent Memoranda on System Web Page)

The following guidelines for awarding honorary degrees are established for the Louisiana State University System.

- I. Criteria for selection of individuals for nomination to receive an honorary degree.
 - a. Consideration for nomination should be based on the individual's contribution to his/her field of endeavor or to society in general. Individuals nominated should be of such outstanding character and distinction that their acceptance of such a degree would honor both the Louisiana State University System and the campus presenting the award.
 - b. Individuals who have made substantial contributions to the development of the Louisiana State University System, a component of the System, the State of Louisiana or the Nation should be given special consideration for nomination to an honorary degree.
 - c. Current public office holders or candidates for office other than a sitting President are not eligible.
 - d. Current members of the LSU Board of Supervisors are not eligible and past members are not eligible until a period of two years has elapsed.

- II. Procedures for selection
 - a. Nominations should originate from the faculty of a college or school or a campus wide committee and be forwarded, with appropriate administrative endorsement, through normal academic channels to the President. The President will submit the nomination to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the System-wide Committee on Awarding of Honorary Degrees and the members of the Board of Supervisors for review. Recommended candidates will then be submitted to the full Board.
 - b. In order to be placed on the Board of Supervisors Agenda, honorary degree nominations must be submitted to the President no later than six (6) weeks prior to the appropriate Board meeting.

Louisiana State University & Agricultural and Mechanical College

*LSU at Alexandria • LSU at Eunice • University of New Orleans • LSU in Shreveport • Hebert Law Center • LSU Agricultural Center
Pennington Biomedical Research Center • LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans • LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport • LSU Health Care Services Division*



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III. Composition of the System-wide Committee on Awarding of Honorary Degrees.

- a. The highest elected faculty officer from the following degree granting campuses: Louisiana State University, LSU in Shreveport, and the University of New Orleans.
- b. A faculty member from the LSU Medical Center shall be recommended by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and appointed by the Chancellor.
- c. A faculty member from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center shall be recommended by the Chancellor of the Law Center.
- d. The graduate deans of LSU, LSU Medical Center, and UNO.
- e. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall serve as ex officio chairman of the Committee.

IV. General Considerations:

- a. Each campus should limit the number of honorary degrees awarded during an academic year to two (2). However, additional degrees may be awarded under special circumstances, as approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors.
- b. Honorary degrees normally should be awarded at commencement ceremonies or other appropriate academic convocations.
- c. Each campus is encouraged to consider the use of alternate forms of special recognition, such as the awarding of a university medal, for those individuals who merit special consideration.
- d. It is critically important that nominations for honorary degrees are submitted in accordance with deadline provisions outlined in Section II(b) listed above.

William L. Jenkins
President