NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY ®
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE

Policy and Rules for the awarding of Honorary Doctorates

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Institutional Governance and Secretariat Services

Policy and Rules for the awarding of Honorary Doctorates

1 Preamble

As a pre-eminent university in Africa, driven by the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, with a unique institutional culture based upon the values the University espouses, the North-West University adopted this policy and rules for the awarding of Honorary Doctorates on 24 March 2006. It was revised and approved again by Council on 10 June 2011.

2 Objectives

To set criteria and procedures for the awarding of honorary doctorates at the North-West University, in terms of the Statute of the North-West University.

3 Scope of application

Faculty Boards, Senate, and Council.

4 Policy

The person to whom an honorary doctorate is awarded must have shown exceptional merit.

- The core of such merit is academic merit, and/or exceptional contributions to the vision and mission of the University, or in South African society, and/or a significant paradigm shift in the field of study.
- The merit of the recipient who receives the award, must also honour the University. The relationship between the receiver of the award and the University must be conceived as continuing over a longer term after the award, as well as binding one another into such a continued close relationship.

5 Rules

5.1 Honorary doctorates can be awarded *posthumously* in exceptional cases.

5.2 In exceptional cases an honorary doctorate will be considered for persons who have already received honorary doctorates from other universities (including the constituent universities of the present North-West University), especially in the case where the nominee has made a new contribution worthy of an honorary doctorate, *after* the previous award.

5.3 The following categories of persons are not eligible for honorary doctorates of the North-West University:

(a) Active members of staff;

(b) Donors, in cases where the impression might be created that the honorary award is aimed at securing further financial reward for the University.

5.4 Honorary doctorates will normally be limited to one per Faculty annually, to be awarded at different campus graduation ceremonies. In exceptional circumstance, a Faculty may have two nominations per year and have no nominations the following year. Given the requirement of exceptional merit, there may be years in which none is awarded.

5.5 Bearing in mind the high symbolic value of such awards, and to protect the privacy and dignity of candidates, strict confidentiality and proper discretion must be observed in the processes of compiling and considering any proposal for the awarding of an honorary doctorate, up to the final approval thereof by Council.

5.6 The final decision and accountability concerning the awarding of honorary doctorates rests with Council.

6 Procedures

6.1 Taking into consideration the mix of faculties of the North-West University, any member of the University community may submit a nomination for a candidate to the appropriate faculty. Cognate faculties or disciplines from different campuses have to consult about nominations, in order to ensure that from year to year different groups of disciplines have opportunities to secure awards.

6.2 Nominations should be accompanied by a motivation [of a maximum of about two pages, showing how the nominee fulfils the criteria for an honorary doctorate].

6.3 Nominations should be forwarded directly to the office of the Institutional Registrar, who will forward such nominations to the Selection Committee.

6.4 Over and above the members of the Selection Committee specified by the Statute, specialists in the relevant fields have to be co-opted: for any given case two, or maximally three specialists from the field in which an award is under consideration.

6.5 The Selection Committee members are allowed to nominate candidates, but have to recuse themselves from the discussions of their nominees by the Selection Committee.

6.6 Where any doubt exists, it is preferable that the Selection Committee err on the strict side rather than be too lenient in selecting candidates for this award and rather recommend that no award be made.

6.7 Once the Selection Committee is satisfied that the proposed candidate(s) would clearly meet the criteria, it recommends the name(s) of the candidate(s) together with motivations, to Senate for consideration. These documents have to be included in the agenda of the meeting of Senate. Members of Senate may not debate on the merit of the recommendations, but may ask questions on receiving clarification on the proposal before the matter is decided upon secret ballot. This will always be dealt with *in camera*.

6.8 The nominations for honorary awards are referred to the Selection Committee who refers the selected candidates to the Senate. After completion of the process Senate informs Council on the selected candidates.

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