

5-13-1993

SR-92-93-(98)244 (UF)

Marshall University

Follow this and additional works at: [http://mds.marshall.edu/fs\\_recommendations](http://mds.marshall.edu/fs_recommendations)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "SR-92-93-(98)244 (UF)" (1993). *Recommendations*. 1180.  
[http://mds.marshall.edu/fs\\_recommendations/1180](http://mds.marshall.edu/fs_recommendations/1180)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Recommendations by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu), [martj@marshall.edu](mailto:martj@marshall.edu).



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
POLICIES FOR AWARDING HONORARY DEGREES  
AND  
RECOMMENDING COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

**THE PROCESS FOR HONORARY DEGREES**

Each year the Chair of the University Functions Committee will appoint a Sub-Committee with representation from the faculty, staff, administration, undergraduate and graduate students, Alumni Association and the Institutional Board of Advisors to examine the credentials of candidates who have been recommended for honorary degrees. The Chair of the University Functions Committee will appoint the Chair of the Sub-Committee from the above representation.

1. In September of each academic year the University Functions Committee Chairperson places a notice in the MARSHALL UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER and THE PARTHENON to the effect that recommendations are requested for candidates for honorary degrees. Individuals wishing to make such recommendations are to send them, along with supporting data to the Chairperson. Persons recommended in the past who were not approved may be considered again. Of course, the person would have to be re-nominated and hopefully additional supporting data will be submitted to the committee.

While a deadline about the middle of October is usual in such notices, the committee may consider recommendations after that date.

2. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee will be forwarded to the University Functions Committee for consideration before being sent on to the Faculty Senate for their consideration.
3. The name of a person who has much to commend, but whom the Sub-Committee has not recommended for an honorary degree, may be referred to the Alumni Association for examination and consideration for one of several awards given through their office.
4. If the Faculty Senate or the University President disapproves of any of the recommendations of the University Functions

Committee, the Committee will be informed of the reasons for the decision.

5. It is the responsibility of the University President to inform each recipient, and to make certain of the person's acceptance and ability to attend the commencement activities to receive the degree.
6. Inability or unwillingness on the part of the potential recipient to attend the commencement ceremonies to receive the degree automatically voids the award unless the University Functions Committee reviews the reasons for such absence and recommends providing the award at some other time and/or place. Normally this is done only in cases of physical incapacity on the part of the recipient.

### SOURCES FOR HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES

The University Functions Committee will accept recommendations from any source: students, staff, faculty, administration, and the public.

In response to requests from some faculty, the committee adopted some years ago the following statement related to sources for such recipients:

1. Persons who have made significant contributions to Marshall University, monetary or otherwise.
2. Persons who can be expected to make significant contributions to Marshall University, usually monetary in nature.
3. Persons sufficiently outstanding that they clearly deserve such recognition.
4. Persons already outstanding for whom such recognition might mean little, but where conferring such a degree might be of benefit to Marshall University.

The University Functions Committee has been concerned however, that no allegations be made to the effect that the University is selling honorary degrees. Thus, it has adopted the following statement to apply to the candidates for honorary degrees:

"The recipient of an honorary degree from Marshall University should be a person whose contribution to humanity clearly merits recognition."

In practice this has meant that the individual is first considered solely in terms of outstanding contributions, totally apart from any monetary gain which Marshall University has secured, or may hope to secure. Any past or possible monetary contribution is then considered only as one item worthy of examination.

In selecting recipients for honorary degrees the committee is most concerned with alumni of Marshall University, with persons from the area normally served by Marshall University, and with persons from West Virginia.

The committee considers retired members of the university staff, administration, and faculty as suitable candidates for examination provided they meet the criteria of service to the institution, regional area, state, or nation.

#### SPECIFIC TYPE OF DEGREE

Once honorary degree candidates receive approval from the Institutional Board of Advisors, the President of the University and the Chair of the University Functions Committee will select the appropriate degree for each recipient. The Chair of the University Functions Committee will notify the Registrar who will secure the diploma(s) along with the proper hood(s).

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AWARD

It is the responsibility of the President to decide when and how the public announcement will be made concerning persons approved for honorary degrees.

The University Functions Committee Chair writes to persons making recommendations thanking them in cases where the person was not approved for an honorary degree, and also writes a similar letter to those whose recommendations were approved after the President has made the award public.

#### THE PROCESS OF SELECTING COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

The President of Marshall University and the Chair of the University Functions Committee will select the Commencement Speaker. Traditionally, newly elected governors of the state of West Virginia are invited to give the Commencement address.

Anyone who would like to have input into the selection of a Commencement Speaker should contact either the President of the University or the Chair of the University Functions Committee.

Revised 3-8-93