

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: April 17, 2013

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees (First Reading)

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Policy amendments require Board action.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Douglas Knowlton, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The proposed amendment transfers the honorary degrees reporting process from the policy to the accompanying procedure 3.18.1 Honorary Degrees and streamlines the reporting process.

Background Information:

This is the second time the policy will be revised since its adoption in 1996. Language on lines 32-33 in policy was moved to procedure; other language was updated; a degree in Engineering and Technology was added to the list of awards in the procedure. The policy and procedure are not used very often; only four honorary degrees were awarded in 2012. The chancellor will no longer make a yearly report on paper to the Board; a list of recipients of honorary degrees will be maintained on the MnSCU website.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD ACTION ITEM
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOARD POLICY 3.18 HONORARY DEGREES (FIRST READING)

BACKGROUND

This is the second time the policy will be revised since its adoption in 1996. The proposed amendment streamlines the reporting process. Language on lines 32-33 was moved to procedure; other language was updated; a degree in Engineering and Technology was added to the list of awards in the procedure. The policy and procedure are not used very often; only four honorary degrees were awarded in 2012. The chancellor will no longer make a yearly report on paper to the Board; a list of recipients of honorary degrees will be maintained on the MnSCU website.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

This is a first reading, no action is required.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

NA

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD POLICY
Chapter #3 Educational Policies
Section #18 Honorary Degrees

1 **3.18 Honorary Degrees**
2

3 **Part 1. Purpose.** ~~The purpose of t~~ This policy is to establish the rationale for honorary
4 degrees, authorizes colleges and universities to grant honorary degrees, and provides ~~for~~
5 standards and guidelines under which honorary degrees will be conferred.
6

7 **Part 2. Definition.** ~~An~~ Honorary degree is means a degree ~~title~~ awarded as an honor for an
8 outstanding contribution in some field, rather than as the result of matriculating and earning a
9 degree based on studies at the institution.
10

11 **Part 3. Rationale.** The rationale for honorary degrees is to:

- 12 1. recognize and honor persons who have made exceptional contributions to a specific field
13 or to society in general;
- 14 2. establish a public association between Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and
15 such exceptional persons, thereby providing testimony to the values and quality of the
16 state colleges and universities; and
- 17 3. assist the state colleges and universities with the goals and objectives of their educational
18 programming, their service and outreach missions, and their institutional advancement.
19

20 **Part 4. Authorization.** Colleges and universities may confer honorary degrees according to
21 procedures established by, and with the approval of, the chancellor.
22

23 **Part 5. Internal Process.** A college or university choosing to award an honorary degree shall
24 establish its own internal process for determining honorary degree recipients consistent with the
25 chancellor's procedure.
26

27 **Part 6. Limits to Eligible Recipients.** Honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently
28 serving faculty or staff members within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system,
29 current members of the Board of Trustees, or current holders of elected political office.
30

31 **Part 7. Report to Board System Office.** ~~The Chancellor shall provide a report on honorary~~
32 ~~degrees awarded to the Board in January and July of each year. Colleges and universities shall~~
33 report to the system office on the honorary degrees awarded each year. The report shall include
34 information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients, and degree designations.

Date of Adoption: 10/16/96,

Date of Implementation: 10/16/96,

Date & Subject of Revisions:

1/21/09 - most language was removed and will be placed in a procedure, language was clarified and format was corrected. New Part 7 was added.

There is no additional HISTORY for policy 3.18.

POLICY CONTENT FORMAT

Single underlining represents proposed new language

~~Strikeouts~~ represent existing language proposed to be eliminated.