FACULTY SENATE BILL #20-6

POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

April 12, 1991        First Reading Faculty Senate
April 19, 1991        Second Reading Faculty Senate
April 26, 1991        Approved as amended University Assembly

Where a matriculating student has completed substantial all degree requirements but dies prior to fully completing degree requirements, a posthumous degree may be awarded when the program of the student’s major area certifies that the degree should be awarded and the Dean of the relevant school and the Dean of the relevant school and the Vice President for Academic Affairs concur with the recommendation to grant the degree.

RATIONALE

Although there have been two incidents when, in practice, posthumous degrees have been awarded, there is no University Policy actually adopted for the circumstance. A prior VPAA refused to recommend awarding a posthumous degree because of the absence of an express, authorizing policy. Therefore, this bill is proposed to expressly authorize posthumous degrees. It is deliberate unspecific as to the meaning of “substantial all degree requirements,” and its implementation is left to the good faith of academic programs under the rare and exceptional circumstance of the death of a matriculating student. "Matriculating" as used in this Bill means a student enrolled in a degree awarding program and actively pursuing the course of study. This Bill does reflect prior practice in the two know incidents.