WHEREAS, UIS does not provide for a process for determining Honorary Degrees; and

WHEREAS, such a process would allow for oversight by the Senate Sabbatical and Awards Committee; and

WHEREAS, such a process would allow for nominations for Honorary Degrees to arise from any academic unit on campus;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following process be approved:

CRITERIA/REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The Senate Sabbatical and Awards Committee invites nominations for honorary degree awards. You are urged to nominate, through your unit, outstanding candidates for Honorary Degree awards. Nomination procedures are detailed below.

Nominations will be considered throughout the year. Nominations and supporting materials received by the end of the fall semester and early in the spring semester will be considered for the degree at the end of the next academic year. The Committee urges all units contemplating submitting a nomination to begin their preparation as soon as possible.

The committee very much appreciates your help in identifying outstanding individuals whom the University can honor and, in so doing, honor itself. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Provost/VCAA Office (206-6614).

For your convenience, here’s an honorary degree nomination form you may use to submit a name to the Committee.
QUALIFICATIONS

The prime, controlling consideration should be distinction. The person should have made a distinguished contribution to knowledge and creativity in the relevant field of endeavor, or have shown sustained activity of uncommon merit. The contributions may be made in a wide range of activities; the following list is not exhaustive:

- Scholarship, in any discipline: major breakthroughs in knowledge in fields of scholarly work.
- Creative Arts, in the broad sense of the term: literature, music, visual arts, theater, et al; the development of new frontiers of creativity.
- Professions: distinguished contributions, innovative work of distinction.
- Public Service: outstanding achievement in public sector leadership, community service and public affairs.
- Business and Industry: outstanding, innovative activity in the business community.

The Committee will consider but not be bound by, the degree to which the candidate has had some association with Illinois - the University or the State. While alumni of the University should not be excluded, honorary degrees are not a means of recognizing their contributions; other awards exist for this purpose. Current administrators, faculty, or staff of the University ordinarily are not eligible; emeriti are eligible even if engaged in teaching or research at the University. Elected officials of the State of Illinois and its subordinate units and members of the Legislature, during their terms of office, ordinarily are not eligible.

The Committee will emphasize recommendations by academic units. A nomination coming to the Committee from a member of the Board of Trustees, an alumnus/alumna or friend of the University, will be referred to the proper academic unit for support of the faculty.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

For full consideration by the Committee, the nominator or nominating unit should supply the following information:

1. A brief letter of nomination, summarizing the candidate’s qualifications for this honor, and certifying the support of the appropriate academic unit.

2. A brief curriculum vitae of the nominee, including addresses, telephone numbers, or other means by which the nominee can be reached. If the nomination finds substantial initial support in the Sabbatical and Awards Committee, additional information may be requested from the department to develop the case and to provide the Senate with the materials it needs for the final decision. The Campus Senate will make the final decision.
3. The names and addresses of at least four professionally-distinguished individuals who could be contacted for letters of support or further information about the candidate. It is hoped that oral communications among professional colleagues will help assure the confidentiality of the decision process.

Award titles include, but are not limited to:

- Doctor of Science
- Doctor of Public Service
- Doctor of University Administration
- Doctor of Law and Justice
- Doctor of Social Service
- Doctor of Humane Letters
- Doctor of Literature
- Doctor of Fine Arts
- Doctor of Letters

Other titles may be established as needed with approval of the Campus Senate.

Nominations and full dossiers should be sent to the Chair of the Senate Sabbatical and Awards Committee - Honorary Degrees in care of the Provost/VCAA Office, PAC 528 MS PAC 525.