

**STATEMENT OF POLICY  
OF  
THE UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Selection of Honorary Degrees and Commencement Speaker**

By Utah Statute (Utah Code unannotated 1994, 53B-2-103 “Powers and Duties of Boards of Trustees”) The Utah State University Board of Trustees has the authority and responsibility to select recipients of honorary degrees awarded by Utah State University. Therefore the Utah State University Board of Trustees hereby establishes an Honorary Degree Screening Committee.

The Honorary Degree Screening Committee’s major responsibilities are to implement procedures to solicit and to encourage an adequate number of qualified nominations, to review all nominations for Honorary Degrees and Commencement Speaker, and to forward the required number of nominations to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

The Honorary Degree Screening Committee will be comprised of the following members:

- Three members from the Board of Trustees are appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, one of which will be the Alumni Council President. These members are appointed for two year terms.
- Three members from the Utah State University Faculty who will be appointed for three year staggered terms. The Faculty Senate will provide the University President with three names each year from whom the President will select one to serve on the Committee.
- One member from the Alumni Council in addition to the Alumni Council President.
- One member of the Utah State University Associated Students, the President of the Utah State University Associated Students or his/her designee.
- The Executive Vice President and Provost or his/her designee, who serves in an ex-officio capacity and whose office will provide administrative support for the Screening Committee.

Responsibility for chairing the Screening Committee will alternate between the Board of Trustees committee members and the faculty committee members. The chair elect for the ensuing year will assist the chair during the chair elect’s tenure. The chair elect will then assume the chair of the committee the succeeding year.

The Committee Chair from the Board of Trustees is appointed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the Chair from the Faculty is appointed by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

During the review process of nominees, the Screening Committee should consider but not be limited to the following:

- Recognize someone who has achieved distinction in their professional field.
- Bring honor to the recipient and the University.
- Recognize those who have participated in development of the University and to further future contributions (usually combined with the two purposes above.)

The prime and controlling consideration should be distinction.

Persons currently serving as administrators, faculty, or staff of Utah State University ordinarily are not eligible; emeriti are eligible even if engaged in teaching or research for the University. Elected officials of the State of Utah and its subordinate units and members of the legislature, during their terms of office, are not ordinarily eligible.

All nominations will be accepted by the committee, but incomplete nominations may be held for the following year so that a complete nomination may be submitted. Unsuccessful nominations will be held for consideration for the following two years. A person may be nominated for one award, but this does not preclude the committee from recommending that person for a different honor.

The Screening Committee will present a list of qualified candidates annually to the Board of Trustees for their selection and approval. The list will consist of approximately six to eight names for honorary degrees and five names for the commencement speaker.