AGENDA
HONORS AND AWARDS COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 16, 2014
2:30-4:30 p.m., ALN 296

1. Call to Order

2. Discussion of Honorary Degree Nominations
   a. Stephen Buchwald (CAS)
   b. Gilbert King (CAS)
   c. S.M. Saifuddin (CAS)

3. Discussion of Proposed Changes to Operating Procedures (see attached)

4. Update from Entela Balliu, President’s Office, regarding possibility of renaming
   the Honorary Degree to “Doctor of Honoris causa” in a given field.

5. Spring 2015 Meetings: January 20 and March 16, 2015

6. Election of Chair-Elect

7. Other Business

8. Adjourn

Conference call information:
Conference bridge number is 813-974-7700
Participant Security Code number is 729907.
USF HONORS AND AWARDS COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 16, 2014

Present: Kamila Dell, Melanie Griffin, Celia Lescano, Melissa Shelton, Michael Teng, Lei Wedge, Marzenna Wiranowska

Call-In: Entela Balliu, Mariaelena Bartesaghi

Ballot: Eleni Manolaraki

Chair Teng called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. after which there were introductions.

DISCUSSION OF HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Chair Teng announced that he selected one HAC member to advocate for each nominee. After a review of the honorary degree criteria, discussion of the candidates took place. It was pointed out that these nominations were either a grant or deny versus choosing.

1. Stephen Buchwald (CAS)

Dr. Buchwald’s nomination was submitted by Dr. Dean Martin from the Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences. His nomination packet was summarized by Chair Teng and consisted of the following highlights: • Camille Dreyfus Professor at MIT • reaction named after him in chemistry • has an H index of 121, and • post doctorate mentor of 2 USF faculty in chemistry. After discussing Dr. Buchwald’s qualifications, a motion was made and seconded to recommend him for an Honorary Doctor of Science. The motion unanimously passed.

2. Gilbert King (CAS)

Dr. Hunt Hawkins, chair of the Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted the nomination of Mr. Gilbert A. King for consideration of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Mr. King’s nomination packet was summarized by Mariaelena and included the following highlights: • 2 books published • Pulitzer Prize winner • humanitarian • participates in lifelong learning and community commitment, and • writings address a social injustice component in Florida. After Mr. King’s qualifications and contributions were discussed, a motion was made and seconded to recommend him for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. The motion unanimously passed.

3. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (CAS)

The nomination of Mr. Saifuddin was submitted by Dr. David Jacobson, Founding Director of the Global Initiative for Civil Society and Conflict, in the College of Arts and Sciences. Melanie summarized his nomination packet after which discussion was held.
The HAC members felt that Mr. Saifuddin’s qualifications were more like those of a public servant rather than an academician. Other comments included: • Is it too early to determine his effect on the community since he was just elevated to his current position this year? • Did his nomination packet contain enough information for the council to consider? • There was no letter of support from the dean of Arts and Sciences. • What is his tie to USF? A motion was made and seconded to deny the granting of an Honorary Doctor of Humanities to Mr. Saifuddin. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO OPERATING PROCEDURES

Before opening the floor for discussion of the proposed procedures, Chair Teng pointed out that nothing new had been added to the following document.

HAC Operating Procedures

Meetings will follow Robert’s Rules of Order for the conduct of normal Council business. Voting:

- All members are eligible to vote on nominations.
- Members are asked to recuse themselves from voting in a particular category if there is a conflict of interest.
  - Conflicts include, but are not limited to: being a nominee in the same category, being in the same department as a nominee in a category, having close personal or professional ties to a nominee?, or any situation where there may be the appearance of favoritism.
- For honorary degrees, members are instructed to vote “Grant” or “Deny” for each nominee. There is no limit to the number of honorary degrees that may be awarded each semester.
- For all other awards where the outcome is a single awardee, members are instructed to vote “Grant” or “Deny” for each nominee. Each member may vote “Grant” for only one nominee per category.
- Comments on electronic ballots from members participating in absentia will be read during the discussion of nominees.
- Electronic ballots will count toward final votes on nominees but will not count toward a quorum for meetings.
- While electronic ballots are required of Council members participating in absentia, regular attendance at meetings is strongly encouraged. Members who are absent will not be able to vote on new motions made during Council meetings.

In general, each nominee should be considered in relation to a relative standard for each award. If the Council determines that none of the nominees meet the relative standard, then it will be recommended that no award is given. It is possible that no applicants for a particular award in any given year will meet the standards of that award.

Results of discussion

- If a tie vote occurs with multiple nominations, the chair breaks the tie.
• What happens when there is no quorum? Although electronic ballots are acceptable, Chair Teng would like to have people attend in person to vote on procedures and processes.
• Members would like to try to have outside reviewers again this year for the awards and have the feedback before the meeting.
• Chair Teng will rewrite the paragraph addressing conflicts of interest.

RENAMEING OF HONORARY DEGREE

At the request of the HAC, Entela researched what other universities offer as honorary degree titles and reported that some had only 4 or 5 options rather than the 14 offered by USF. The options are Doctor of Science, Humane Letters, Fine Arts, Literature, and Medicine. However, there seemed to be some consensus that USF should offer a “Doctor of Honoris causa” in a given field and eliminate the current list. Another suggestion was to keep the list but add the Doctor of Honoris causa with the area filled in by the nominator. Entela will forward her research results to Mike who will work on a revised document to send to the HAC members.

SPRING 2015 MEETINGS – JANUARY 20 AND MARCH 16

Several members will not know their teaching schedules until late fall. Therefore, another Doodle poll will be done at that time to determine availability to meet on these two dates.

ELECTION OF CHAIR-ELECT

As the only nomination received, Melanie was approved by acclamation and accepted the position as the chair-elect for 2014-2015.

OTHER BUSINESS

HAC members were asked to disseminate award information within their respective colleges for the Spring 2015 nomination process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.