



UCF Board of Trustees

Governance Committee

September 27, 2024

Agenda Item

GOVC-7: Honorary Degree Consideration

Proposed Action

The Governance Committee is asked to recommend to the Board of Trustees, on its consent agenda, approval to confer an honorary degree upon the proposed recipient.

Authority for Board of Trustees Action

Board of Governors Regulation 1.001
Board of Governors Regulation 3.004
UCF Policy 4-408: Honorary Degrees

Supporting Documentation Included

Attachment A: Dr. Thaddeus Seymour, Jr. Bio

Facilitators/Presenters

Michael A. Kilbride, Executive Chief of Staff

Summary of Key Observations/Recommendations

The Governance Committee and Board of Trustees are requested to consider the proposed nomination for an honorary degree from the University of Central Florida. This esteemed tradition honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to their field, society, or the university. By awarding honorary degrees, UCF recognizes and encourages continued excellence, strengthening the bond between the honorees and the university.

According to university policy, the achievement may be scholastic in nature, or it may be evidenced in public service. Additionally, the achievement should be sustained and lasting in character and reflect a very noteworthy distinction that is in concordance with the goals, objectives, and duties of the university.

- The proposed individuals have each significantly impacted the university through their long-term advocacy, dedication, and investment in the University of Central Florida.
- The nominees' values and achievements align with the mission of the University of Central Florida to unleash the potential within every individual, enrich the human experience through inclusion, discovery, and innovation, and propel broad-based prosperity for the many communities we serve.
- All members of the UCF community have the right to nominate candidates for honorary doctoral degrees. Nominations must have the endorsement of the appropriate university division or dean and must be reviewed by the Commencements, Convocations, and Recognitions Committee.
- Upon an affirming vote of the Commencements, Convocations, and Recognitions Committee, the packet will be sent to the Office of the President for the concurrence of the President.
- The President is responsible for recommending the nominees to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees alone has the authority to approve the awarding of the degree.

Additional Background

Since 1970, UCF has bestowed 98 honorary degrees to individuals who have made significant academic, cultural, and scientific contributions to society.

Implementation Plan

Upon approval, the following steps will be taken to confer the honorary degree:

- Notification: Inform the nominees of their selection and invite them to accept the degree.
- Ceremonial Arrangements: Plan and organize the conferral ceremony with appropriate recognition.

- Engagement Opportunities: Facilitate the nominee's involvement with the UCF community through speaking engagements or collaborations.

Resource Considerations

The financial impact of awarding an honorary degree is minimal, primarily involving ceremonial costs and administrative resources. Pre-budgeted sources will cover these expenses, ensuring no additional burden on the university's budget.