AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs   **DATE:** January 24, 2024

TITLE: Proposed Amendment too Board Policy 3.18 Honorary
Degrees (First Reading)

☒ Action   ☐ Review and Discussion

☒ *This item is required by policy*

PRESENTERS
Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

PURPOSE
Board Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration, Part 6. Board Policies and System Procedures requires board review and approval of proposed changes to a board policy and that board policies are reviewed at least once every five years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The proposed amendment consists of two technical edits in Part 1. Purpose, deleting the "s" at the end of "authorizes" and "provides".

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION (FIRST READING DRAFT)
The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed changes made to Policy 3.18.

Date Presented to the ASA Committee: *1/24/24*
Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: *First reading - no action taken.*
Date of Implementation: *TBD*

PROPOSED CHANGES (FIRST READING DRAFT)
Single underlining represents proposed new language.
Strikeouts represent existing language proposed to be removed.

1   **3.18 Honorary Degrees**
2
3   **Part 1. Purpose**
4   To establish the rationale for honorary degrees, authorizes colleges and universities to grant
5   honorary degrees, and provides standards and guidelines under which honorary degrees will be
6   conferred.
7
8   **Part 2. Definition**
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10   **Honorary degree**
11   A degree awarded as an honor for an outstanding contribution in some field, rather than as
12   the result of matriculating and earning a degree based on studies at the college or
13   university.
14
15   **Part 3. Rationale**
16   The rationale for honorary degrees is to:
17   1. recognize and honor persons who have made exceptional contributions to a specific field or to
18   society in general;
19   2. establish a public association between Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and such
20   exceptional persons, thereby providing testimony to the values and quality of the state colleges
21   and universities; and
22   3. assist the state colleges and universities with the goals and objectives of their educational
23   programming, their service and outreach missions, and their institutional advancement.
24
25   **Part 4. Authorization**
26   Colleges and universities may confer honorary degrees according to procedures established by,
27   and with the approval of, the chancellor.
28
29   **Part 5. Internal Process**
30   A college or university choosing to award an honorary degree shall establish its own internal
31   process for determining honorary degree recipients consistent with the chancellor's procedure.
32
33   **Part 6. Limits to Eligible Recipients**
34   Honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty or staff members within
35   the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, current members of the Board of
36   Trustees, or current holders of elected political office.
37
38   **Part 7. Report to Board**
39   The chancellor shall provide an annual report to the board on honorary degrees awarded. The
40   report shall include information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients,
41   and degree designations. Colleges and universities shall report to the system office on the
42   honorary degrees awarded each year.

Related Documents:

- **Procedure 3.18.1** Honorary Degrees

Policy History:

Date of Adoption: 10/16/96
Date of Implementation: 10/16/96
Date of Last Review: 05/22/19

Date & Subject of Amendments:

Xx/xx/24 – Full review, two technical edits made in Part 1. Purpose. Deleted the "s" at the end of "authorizes" and "provides".

5/22/19 - Regular review, technical edits.

5/22/13 - minor amendments throughout. Amended Part 7 to require that the chancellor report honorary degrees to the Board annually rather than twice a year and further amends Part 7 to require that colleges and universities report to the system office the honorary degrees that are awarded each year.

Additional **HISTORY**.