



May 4, 2020

Dr. Ben Givens, Secretary  
University Senate  
119 Independence Hall  
1923 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Ben,

Please accept this communication as the 2019-2020 Senate's Committee on Honorary Degrees report. This past year the committee was composed of the following members: Jennifer Crocker (Chair, 2022), Clark Larsen (2020), William Marras (2021), Christopher Hill (2022), Richard Pogge (2022), and Lorraine Wallace (2022), with Caroline Wagner (2023) serving as alternate.

The Committee received eleven nominations, including three that carried over from the previous year. It approved three, which were presented to and approved by the Senate. One additional nomination was approved by the committee but completed too late to present to the Senate in the 2019-2020 academic year; it will be presented in the 20-21 academic year. Two additional nominations are awaiting supporting letters. One more awaits additional information from the nominator, and four were not moved forward in the process by the committee.

The status of our grantees/nominees is as follows: The committee approved the nomination of Professor Claude M. Steele, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, and Dr. Grace Wahba (approval by the Board of Trustees pending for all of them).

The committee adopted more flexibility in its rules regarding the number of supporting letters required for nominees (up to six at the discretion of the committee, plus a supporting letter from the Dean of the relevant College). The committee also decided that nominators, rather than the committee chair, should collect supporting documents and submit them as a package to streamline the process. A next step, which was recommended in the 2017-2018 report, would be the creation of an online form, available via the Senate's webpage, to facilitate the submission of nominations. This latter change could lead to an increased number of nominations and a more agile process. The next Committee Chair could consider these changes.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Jennifer Crocker  
Ohio Eminent Scholar in Social Psychology  
Professor of Psychology