

In academic year 2024-2025, the Honorary Degrees Committee received six nominations. The Committee voted in favor of moving three of the nominees forward and requesting a more complete nomination letter for one. The nominators for the three successful candidates are compiling their complete dossiers for submission to the Committee in the 2025-2026 academic year. The Committee had no pending files from the previous year.

The Committee's work was somewhat complicated by the University's deletion of the list of honorary degrees from its website and inability to locate the underlying file. With the help of one of our law librarians, the chair was able to reconstruct the list, which is now within the control of the University Senate.

As part of a periodic review of committee work, the chair attended a meeting of the Senate Cabinet at which the chair summed up recent honorary degree practices at Ohio State and invited discussion of the number of honorands, their fields of achievement, and means of securing more nominations, especially from units that don't often submit them. President Carter was firmly of the opinion that four honorary degrees per year was a good target number (as opposed to the practices at some benchmark schools, some of which give none and some of which give a dozen or more). He also expressed his views about the sort of honorand he would welcome, as well as the sort he would not. Other members of the Cabinet asked questions about the process and commented on, in particular, the distribution of honorary degrees among units. The chair encouraged members of the Cabinet to go back to their units and drum up nominations; we can review only the nominations we receive.

Larry Garvin

College of Law

Chair, 2024-2025