



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

May 17, 2022

To: Ohio State University Senate
From: Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees
Caroline S. Wagner, Chair, 2020-2022

Subject: Year-End Report on Committee Activities

This memorandum summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees for the 2021-2022 academic year.

This past year the committee was composed of the following members: James Cogdell (2023); Jennifer Crocker (2022); Joseph Heremans (2023); Christopher Hill (2022); Richard Pogge (2022); Lorraine Wallace (2022); and Caroline Wagner (2023, Chair). Jennifer Crocker and Lorraine Wallace completed their service this term. James Cogdell has volunteered to be the Committee Chair for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet in person, but we continued to operate effectively virtually and online. Qualtrics votes were taken throughout the year when Committee business warranted.

Early in the 2021 academic year, the Committee completed work on prior nominations that rolled over into 2021. Of the six cases we were handling, three nominations were passed to the Senate for action. The nominees who were passed to the Senate were the following:

1. Bryan Stevenson (passed Senate with positive vote)
2. Freeman Hrabowski (passed Senate with positive vote)
3. Wayne Newton (passed Senate with positive vote)

Three additional cases received internal action by the Committee.

- The nomination of Dave Malkoff by a family member was considered by the Committee and we voted unanimously to deny the request for a degree. A letter was sent to the family member.
- The nomination of Ambassador Philip Lader and Reverend Linda Lader were voted on by the Committee. We decided to forward these nominations directly to the Office of the President for her consideration, since they were not academic nominations.



In Spring 2022, the Committee received four nominations for discussion. The Committee made the following determinations about the nominations:

- The self-nomination of Colonel Curtis Wells was discussed. The committee voted to deny the nomination. A letter was sent to Colonel Wells advising him of the committee's decision.
- The nomination of Arun Majumdar was unanimously supported by the Committee and passed to the Senate. The nomination received a positive vote from the Senate.
- The nomination of Donna James was unanimously supported by the Committee and passed to the Senate. The nomination received a positive vote from the Senate.
- The nomination of Dennis Liotta was unanimously supported by the Committee and passed to the Senate. The nomination received a positive vote from the Senate.

During the year, the Committee also interacted with the Office of the President to advise on Commencement speaker nominations, and to respond episodically to requests for comment on the President's nominees.

We thank the Secretariat for their support this year. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the Ohio State University on this Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Caroline S. Wagner

Chair, 2021-2022