



Faculty Senate

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATE REGULATION OF HONORS,
AWARDS, OR DISTINCTIONS BY UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY (20/10)**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

That the language in the first point in the Guidelines for the Conferral of Honors, Awards, or Distinctions (as set out in Senate Resolution 04/09, attached) be clarified in the following way:

“The awardee must have achieved distinction in his or her profession. “Distinction” can be measured in a variety of ways: winning significant prizes for professional **contributions**, ~~or~~ scholarly work **or service to the community**; achieving national or international recognition for ~~professional~~ ~~or~~ scholarly or **professional work including service to the local or global community**; or displaying the kind of ~~professional or~~ scholarly **or professional skills** or abilities, character, and integrity that might cause the nominee to be considered ~~to be~~ a role model for students.

Honors and Academic Convocations Committee of the Faculty Senate
December 20, 2019

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate
February 14, 2020

A Resolution for the Appropriate Regulation of Honors, Awards, or Distinctions by Units of the University (04/9)

WHEREAS, it is of the first importance that any honor, award, or distinction linked with the name of The George Washington University continue to deserve the high regard of the entire academic community and the world at large; and

WHEREAS, it is essential therefore that such honors, awards, or distinctions be conferred with due deliberation on individuals or associations properly deserving of that honor, award, or distinction; and

WHEREAS, to that end it is desirable that in conferring such honors, awards, or distinctions on persons outside the community of GW students, faculty, and staff a degree of uniformity in standards, criteria, and deliberation be maintained throughout the University; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

- 1) That, with respect to persons outside the community of students, faculty, and staff of The George Washington University, only Schools of the University should be authorized to confer honors, awards, or distinctions (that is, not individual Departments or other academic subdivisions, Institutes, or Centers, or other components, including ‘schools within Schools’, although these could well suggest or initiate consideration of such), subject to some appropriate procedures to be established by and within each School for that purpose, such procedures to be approved by the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; and
- 2) that nominations for such School honors, awards, or distinctions should be vetted and approved by the Committee on Honors and Academic Convocations of the Faculty Senate (the “Committee”) on the basis of materials submitted in support of each honor to be conferred by the School and the guidelines set forth in the Appendix to this Resolution, much as that Committee now vets nominations for the award of honorary degrees submitted by the various Schools; provided, that awards of a more modest nature may be approved by the Committee on a generalized basis in accordance with such procedures as the Committee may determine to be appropriate, including the approval of standard criteria to be followed by a School in selecting recipients of such awards.

Appendix: Guidelines for Conferral of Honors, Awards, or Distinctions

- 1) The awardee must have achieved distinction in his or her profession. “Distinction” can be measured in a variety of ways: winning significant prizes for professional or scholarly work; achieving national or international recognition for professional or scholarly work; or displaying

the kind of professional or scholarly skills or abilities, character, and integrity that might cause the nominee to be considered to be a role model for students.

2) The awardee must have made the kind of contribution to his or her profession that has measurably enhanced or improved the profession. The awardee must have set a new standard for accomplishment, found new ways to deliver the benefits of the profession, or otherwise brought recognition to the profession.

3) A connection with GW and the School proposing the honor, award, or distinction would be an important positive factor.

Committee on Honors and Academic Convocations
Barry L. Berman, Acting Chair
March 22, 2005

Adopted, April 8, 2005