

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
September 22, 2009 - 2:00pm
Hill Hall 300

ATTENDEES: Davis, Greivel, Martins, Miller, Sacks, Scales, Voorhees

APOLOGIES: Drewes, Dorgan, Eberhart, Griffiths, Hitzman, Steele

GUESTS: Zach Aman – Representative, GSA
Wendy Harrison – Associate Provost
Lara Medley – Registrar

Voorhees, Senate President pro tem, called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- A. Harrison submitted a report regarding salary adjustments in academic affairs ([ATTACHMENT A](#)). It outlines salary adjustments made for 33 academic and administrative faculty members. Harrison informed the Senate that information regarding salary adjustments for the President and Vice-Presidents would have to be obtained from them directly. It was noted that most public institutions publish this data openly to the public, sometimes even on the State's official website. It was decided that Eberhart would draft a letter to Harrison addressing the perceived reluctance to provide information regarding specific individual's salary adjustments as well as requesting data regarding administrative personnel. If the raw data is available he will also request the files.
- B. Harrison reported that a draft policy regarding joint appointments was just submitted to the Academic Standards and Faculty Affairs Committee for review. Harrison will submit the draft policy to the Senate at the next meeting for review.
- C. Harrison reported that at the last ASCSM meeting the main topics were suggested changes to the core curriculum and the effects of forgiving 'F' grades in cases involving academic dishonesty. Harrison will report more fully on these issues at the next meeting.
- D. Harrison reported that a proposal would be submitted to the Handbook Committee regarding changes to titles for some faculty members. The new titles would better describe the positions of these faculty members. Harrison will report more fully on this issue at the next meeting.
- E. Harrison reported that there were 45 hiring requests across campus and that the Provost would likely approve 15 of them.
- F. Harrison reported that there would likely be one or two new non-science and engineering undergraduate degrees added soon in hopes to approve retention. It was also reported that the last retention study occurred over 10 years ago.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 08, 2009 Senate meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 20th Semi-Annual Report of the Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics (FOCSA) – Davis submitted the 20th Semi-Annual FOCSA report to the Senate. The Senate accepted the report and asked Davis to convey the Senate's appreciation for the report to FOCSA.
- B. Issues with Volk Gym and Steinhauer Field House – Davis submitted a memorandum regarding issues concerning Volk Gym and Steinhauer Field House after-hours access by

faculty and staff ([ATTACHMENT B](#)). The memorandum included a survey submitted to faculty and staff and the results of the survey. Davis reported that a meeting will occur next week regarding the survey results and will report the results of that meeting at the Senate's next meeting.

- C. Posthumous Degree Awards – Scales submitted a report ([ATTACHMENT C](#)) from Medley giving excerpts from online policies for posthumous degrees. Scale requested Senators to review the excerpts and send suggestions for a policy to him so he can draft a policy for review at the next Senate meeting. It was also reported that honorary degrees should be awarded to students if they have not completed enough of their degree to be awarded a full posthumous degree. Harrison reported that there are four students potentially meeting the requirements to be awarded a posthumous degree but need approval by the first week of October. Ten to 15 minutes of the next Senate meeting will be devoted to this issue.
- D. Progress: Committee Appointments – Voorhees reported on the progress made in the 2009-2010 Faculty Senate nominations for University Committees and the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Eberhart will report on this subject at the next Senate meeting.
- E. Status: Anne Walker Invitation – Voorhees reported that Anne Walker rejected the Senate's invitation to attend a meeting to discuss financial accountability and the policy regarding conflict of interest between the Board of Trustees and actions of the university. It was reported that Eberhart would meet with Provost Castillo and report back to the Senate at the next meeting.
- F. Status September 23 Faculty Forum – Voorhees reported that the Forum was cancelled due to a lack of a speaker.

REPORTS:

- A. President's Report – Voorhees reported that the Executive Committee would be meeting with Provost Castillo the first week of October and President Scoggins mid-October and will report back to the Senate. Senators were also asked to submit topics of discussion for these meetings.
- B. Senate Councils
 - 1. Undergraduate Council – Grievel reported that there were some complaints about the change in voting membership of the Council. The Senate would like a survey conducted regarding changes in the quality of education with respect to the increase in enrollment. Changes to the core curriculum will be reviewed at the next meeting and results reported to the Senate. It was reported that there were initial discussions regarding the implementation of a pass/fail policy and more details would be reported at the next meeting. Possible changes to the readmissions policy will be reported at the next meeting and it was reported that Eberhart would invite a representative from the Readmissions Committee to the next meeting for further discussion.
 - 2. Graduate Council – Martins reported that Hitzman is the Senate representative to the Graduate Council. Martins also reported that the main issues concerning the council are the pass/fail policy and the implementation of time limits on graduate degrees.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Identify Recommendations to Handbook Committee – Voorhees requested topics that need to be addressed and specific recommendations to be submitted to the Handbook Committee. It was reported that language changes are needed regarding consulting policy, intellectual property policy, and several other policies. It was noted that this issue would likely need to go to a sub-committee and will be addressed at the next meeting.
- B. Change to Senate Bylaws Regarding Research Council – A report will be submitted at the next Senate meeting.
- C. Change to Senate Bylaws Regarding Membership to Graduate Council Informational Clusters – Davis reported that the Senate Bylaws regarding the membership of the Graduate

Council omitted the non-voting status of the Physical Education and Athletics Division. This issue will be discussed at the next Senate meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. The next Senate meeting will take place on October 13, 2009 in Hill Hall room 300.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Wendy Harrison

CC: Steve Castillo; Mike Dougherty

DATE: September 16,2009

RE: Salary Adjustments in Academic Affairs

With the approval of President Scoggins salary adjustments were made for thirty three academic and administrative faculty reporting to Academic Affairs in A Y09-1 O. The adjustments address promotion and tenure decisions, salary inversions, and equity in rank.

- Two members of the administrative faculty were promoted in rank and received salary increments of 3-5% in recognition of their achievements and new responsibilities.
- Six members of the academic faculty were promoted and/or tenured and received increments of about 5.5% for promotion only and about 9.0% for promotion and tenure.
- Fourteen members of the academic faculty who hold the rank of assistant professor received increments varying between 2.5-7.5% to adjust salary inversion or compression issues created by recent new hires.
- Four members of the academic faculty who hold the rank of lecturer received increments varying between 3-7% to adjust salary equity issues.
- Seven members of the tenured academic faculty with exemplary performance received increments to correct salary inequities. Each salary adjustment is unique however, in four cases these adjustments were determined in prior years and are part of individualized, negotiated plans being implemented over multiple year terms.

The salary expenditure represented by these adjustments is \$121,091

MEMORANDUM

To: Wendy Harrison

From: Graham Davis, Faculty Senate

Date: August 31, 2009

Re: Volk Gym and Steinhauer Field House After Hours Access by Faculty and Staff

As you may recall, last summer the Provost requested that I survey the interest by Faculty and Staff in after hours access to Volk Gym and Steinhauer Field House. This memo provides a summary of the responses to the that survey. The survey was disseminated to CSM Faculty and Staff electronically via an email that contained a web link to the survey. The survey tool was set up to allow only one response per IP address. Access to the survey was not restricted other than through the initial emailing to faculty and staff, and as a result there were a dozen or so responses by parties such as alumni, students, Golden residents, retired faculty, family of faculty, and student coaches. These results are included in the analysis below since they are too few to affect the overall outcome of the survey. Hard copies were distributed to those faculty and staff who were unlikely to have access to email.

Responses were collected up to August 30, 2009. Completed hard copies that were returned were entered manually into the online survey tool, Survey Monkey.

The survey tool allows responses to be filtered for analysis, and I have undertaken some of this in preparing this memo. I have access to the electronic survey data for another month, and would be happy to do additional analyses of the responses as you see fit.

Copies of the survey and of the survey response summary are attached as separate .pdf files.

Overview of Responses

There is significant interest amongst faculty and staff in gaining year-round access to the Volk Gym and Steinhauer Field House facilities after hours on weekdays and on weekends. The majority of those who expressed an interest in using these facilities also offered to pay for such use. The most desired time for access on weekdays was 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Weekend users expressed flexibility as to access hours.

Details

There were a total of 251 responses, which I estimate to be about a 50% response rate. This is quite high for surveys in general. Of those who responded, 139 were interested in after hour access to one or more of the Volk Gym racquetball courts, basketball courts, and lockers and showers, and to the Steinhauer Field House track. The lockers/showers and the track were by far the most popular facilities, with 119 faculty and staff indicating a desire to use the lockers/showers, and 97 wanting to use the indoor track. Those indicating an interest in these facilities desired to use them all year round. When asked if they would be willing to pay for access to these facilities, 81 of the 139 responded that they would be willing to pay. When asked how much they would be willing to pay per month, the following responses were recorded:

For the facilities I am interested in using, and assuming that I can gain access during my preferred access semesters and access hours, I would be willing to pay up to the following amount each month that I am able to access the facilities under this extended access policy:

Answer Options Response

Percent

Response

Count

\$5 36.3% 29

\$10 40.0% 32

\$20 18.8% 15

\$50 2.5% 2

\$100 1.3% 1

More than \$100 1.3% 1

answered question 80

Overall, at a cost of \$10/month, all but 29 of those willing to pay would agree to pay this amount for access. The revenue would be about \$500/month, given that some of these respondents may not pay

and others who did not answer the survey may sign up. At a cost of \$20/month, total revenues would be about \$400/month. Wear and tear would be lower, at \$20/month, since about half as many users would sign up at \$20/month as at the \$10/month charge. At \$50/month there would only be 4 users for a total revenue of \$200/month.

In an effort to determine whether the facilities in Volk and Steinhauer were preferred to the facilities in the Student Recreation Centre, I also asked if people would want to change their membership to Volk and Steinhauer if it became available after hours. Of the 33 respondents who had memberships to the Student Recreation Centre, 18 said they would rather pay for access to the Volk and Steinhauer facilities after hours, and 15 said they would not.

Of those who were willing to pay, the most desired time for access to Volk and Steinhauer on weekdays was 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. There was no clear preference as to access time on weekends; 30 respondents said that they were completely flexible in their hours of use on weekends.

Comments

33 respondents left optional comments as follows:

Unedited comments by 23 of those interested in using one or more of the facilities after hours

1. not sure what #14 is asking or stating.
2. We, Korean Student Association at CSM, would like to play volleyball on Friday evening, 6 to 9 pm. would it be available? Please let me know, ipark@mines.edu
3. it is hard to access the building with a full time job. There needs to be latter weekday hours because 5 is ridiculous.
4. Thanks for asking!
5. Year round access to the outdoor track would be nice also.
6. If this was open at least until 7pm, and weekends, I could drop my 24 hr fitness membership, save 40 minutes of extra commuting, gas and environment.
7. To be able to play racquetball with staff members we require access at 5:00. We play till about 6:30, shower and leave the building by 7:00.
8. We used to have access to Volk until 10pm on the weekdays so I think we should still have access. The new gym is nice but it did not entirely replace volk. The basketball gyms at Volk that can be used by non-athletes are smaller and fewer than the basketball courts we used to use at Volk. In volk, there were many pull-up bars and squat racks and at the new gym there are essentially no pull-up bars or free-weight squat racks. I understand that it would cost money to keep volk open longer hours, but I also think that it should not be substantial because it only requires a few students, and we all know those people only cost the school a few dollars an hour.
9. Why did the school build a rec-center? Doesn't that have almost all of these.
10. Thanks for surveying and looking into people's interest.
11. Anything for the indoor track.
12. Thank you for taking the time to put together and disseminate the survey.
13. I don't currently have Rec. Center membership. All I really want/need are the showers, if there were much of a charge to use the showers in the Gym I would probably switch and use the Rec Center.
14. It would be nice to have access to the weight room as well!
15. The ability to schedule ladder matches for my 24 students will be vastly improved with access to Volk after hours. As it is scheduling is very tight because of other classes scheduled during regular hours.
16. would be nice if there was just electronic access to the building. we could be responsible enough to turn the lights to the courts and lockerroom on and off.

17. We used to have this access for free - also, we used to be able to run on the track around the football field but that's been kept locked for the last several years. I never understood why faculty cannot have 24/7 Blaster card access?

18. I belong to the Rec Center year around, however, I like to play R-Ball and I use the locker room when I bike in the warmer months.

19. In attempting to schedule time for the practices for the school's judo club, we have been around the horn on this issue with the athletic department numerous times. It makes little sense to have a capital facility at less than full utilization.

20. To better answer the final question, I would have to know what the fee would be. If it were reasonable, I would probably pay for the extra hours.

21. Thanks for the survey. I have missed using the facilities in Volk. I would like to get back to the gym.

22. Monthly charges for the gymnasium and the student rec center is essential for my participation in the program. Currently I would like access to the student rec center, but do not participate due to the fact that I have to pay by the semester.

23. if I only had one option I would most want the later hours during the summer.

Unedited comments by 10 of those not interested in using any of the facilities after hours

1. I am pretty sure that is what the rec center is to be used for. Why in these time we would be looking to increase costs when there is a brand new facility already available.

2. I feel the athletics facilities are for intercollegiate purposes only. The athletes and the athletic department have done a tremendous job representing our institution at extracurricular activities, therefore, deserving the right to occupy those facilities for athletics along. The REC center should be a facility available for faculty and staff that wish to partake in exercise and athletic activities. Someone should have done a better job in creating the REC center so it would accommodate the ENTIRE campus body, so athletics would not be intruded upon.

3. I didn't find the Exit the Survey button after answering no to the first 4 questions.

4. There is not any need to have the facilities open for use after hours. The facilities in the rec center are already more than appropriate for use. Having access only during open hours ensures the safety and security of anyone in the building during a workout period.

5. Why did the school spend all the money on the Rec Ctr if they still want to use Volk?

Sounds like the school wasted their money if faculty and staff don't want to take advantage of a new modern facility.

6. I thought this is what the new Student Recreation Center was intended for?

7. Volk Gym and Steinhauer Fieldhouse are needed for physical activity classes and athletic practices/competition. The faculty can pay to use the new student rec center and use it at any time, which is why it was built. They can also by a health club membership and have access at any time of the day. Athletics attracts a large number of students to the CSM campus and they need these two facilities to properly prepare for competition without working around any other groups. I don't know why this is even a topic for discussion.

8. I do not believe opening up Volk Gym after hours is a positive change or decision. The way it has been ran thus far is how it should stay!

9. The school has a brand new nice recreation center for faculty, staff and students. There's no need for anybody besides athletics to use an outdated and worn out Volk and Field House. Why would anybody want to use these old buildings anyway...except for being cheap??

10. Its great that we have a student recreational facility to use for everything (except racquetball) that you questioned on

Excerpts from Online Policies for Posthumous Degrees
September 8, 2009
Lara Medley

Excerpts from policy statements found on the web, paraphrased:

SIU Carbondale

It is the Judgment of the Faculty Senate that posthumous degrees can justifiably be awarded when the candidate has substantially completed the work for the degree. This determination rests with the dean of the degree-granting unit concerned (or Graduate Dean).

UCSB

A posthumous Bachelor's degree may be awarded if a student, at the time of death:

- 1) had attained at least senior standing (completion of 135 units)
- 2) had completed at least 40 units in residence at UCSB
- 3) had attained a cumulative gpa of 2.0 or higher, and
- 4) had completed at least 24 units in the major

If at the time of death, the conditions are not satisfied, a certificate indicating progress toward the degree may be awarded if the student:

- 1) was enrolled for at least one complete quarter of work, and
- 2) had attained a gpa of 2.0 or higher

UNLV

... if the following requirements are met: At the time of death, the student:

- a. Under normal circumstances, if an undergraduate had completed all but the last year of course work, including all Gen Ed requirements and had no more than 12 hours remaining in the major
- b. If a non-thesis grad student was enrolled in the last semester of the program and had completed all coursework and capstone requirements
- c. If a thesis grad student has completed all coursework and capstone requirements and the majority of research for the thesis that could be compiled into a final product if desired
- d. If a dissertation graduate student had completed all coursework, passed comps, and conducted a majority of research that could be compiled into a final document if desired. And the student was in good standing with the minimum gpa required by the major.

Ball State University

...will be awarded only to students who are enrolled in the last semester prior to graduation. Students who do not qualify will be eligible for a certificate of recognition.

Georgia State University

A posthumous undergraduate degree shall be awarded at the request of or with concurrence of the family or friends of the deceased if, at the time of death, the student

1. was 15 or fewer semester hours short of the number of semester hours required to complete the degree which the student was seeking and
2. the student was in good standing.

University of Vermont

A. Undergraduate degrees

An undergraduate degree may be awarded posthumously if:

1. At the time of death, the student was enrolled in courses required for completion of the degree and nearing completion of work required for award of the degree.;
2. The student was in good academic standing and successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded;
3. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the student's major department and college dean, and is then referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval; and
4. The Board of Trustees awards the degree in due course.

B. Graduate degrees A graduate degree may be awarded posthumously if:

1. At the time of death, the graduate student was nearing successful completion of the work required for the degree
2. The student was in good standing;
3. A favorable recommendation for award of the degree is made by the student's graduate committee, the Graduate College Executive Committee and the Dean of the Graduate College, and is then referred through normal channels to the Faculty Senate for approval; and
4. The Board of Trustees awards the degree in due course.

CU Denver

C. Posthumous Baccalaureate Degrees Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous baccalaureate degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student was making progress toward the degree when last enrolled and had attained a cumulative University of Colorado grade point average of 2.00 or higher; and,
2. The student either (a) was within fifteen semester units of completing all requirements for the degree, or (b) was in the final semester leading to completion, or (c) there is sufficient evidence that the deceased student would likely have completed all requirements and received the degree.

D. Posthumous Master's Degrees Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous master's degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student was making progress toward the degree when last enrolled and had attained a cumulative University of Colorado grade point average of 3.00; and,
2. The student either (a) was within nine semester units of completing all requirements for the degree, or (b) was in the final semester leading to completion, or (c) there is sufficient evidence that the deceased student would likely have completed all requirements and received the degree.

E. Posthumous Doctoral Degrees Unfulfilled graduation requirements shall be waived, and a posthumous doctoral degree awarded, if the following conditions are met at the time of a student's death:

1. The student had completed all course requirements for the degree. was making progress toward the degree, and had attained a cumulative University of Colorado grade point average of 3.00; and,
2. The student was enrolled for dissertation hours when last enrolled; and,
3. The student was within six semester units of completing all dissertation requirements. or there is sufficient evidence that the deceased student would most likely have fulfilled all dissertation requirements and received the degree.

UC Davis

2.0 gpa and within 15 units of graduating (undergraduate)

Boise State University

Undergraduate Degrees. Posthumous degrees may be awarded to deceased undergraduate students who have completed all but 16 credit hours of the requirements for graduation and have been enrolled as a student within the past two regular semesters. The remaining 16 credit hours would complete their degree requirements and meet all university, college, and department GPA requirements.

The appropriate degree may be awarded posthumously on the recommendations of the student's academic department with the approval by the dean of the student's college and the university president. The student's transcript will show a notation that the degree was awarded posthumously.

Posthumous Graduate Degrees. Posthumous degrees may be awarded to deceased graduate students who have completed all but 9 hours of the required course work for graduation and have been enrolled as a student within the past two regular semesters. The remaining 9 credit hours would complete their degree requirements and meet all university, college, and department GPA requirements. The appropriate degree may be awarded posthumously on the recommendations of the student's academic department with the approval of the dean of the student's college and the university president. For all degrees, the student's advisor and/or advisory committee must certify that it believes that all requirements for the degree would have been completed by the anticipated graduation date under normal circumstances. The student's transcript will show a notation that the degree was awarded posthumously.

Posthumous Certificate of Recognition. In cases where it is determined that either an undergraduate or graduate student did not meet the above requirements for a degree, a "posthumous certificate of recognition" may be awarded, if appropriate, by the Registrar's Office. The certificate recognizes a student's progress toward the attainment of a degree. The certificate will be noted on the student's transcript.

Texas A&M

1. **POSTHUMOUS BACHELOR'S DEGREES** If at the time of death, a candidate for a bachelor's degree is enrolled in courses that would complete the degree requirements, the appropriate degree may be awarded posthumously on the recommendation of the student's academic department, on the approval of the student's college, the Faculty Senate and the President of the University. Exceptional cases will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for review and recommendation to the President.
2. **POSTHUMOUS GRADUATE DEGREES**

3.1 Any request for a posthumous degree award for a candidate for a graduate degree must be initiated by the chair of the student's advisory committee and contain a positive recommendation from the student's academic department. The Student's advisory committee must certify that it believes that all requirements for the degree would have been completed by the anticipated graduation date under normal circumstances. The award request must be approved by the student's college, the Faculty Senate, and the President.

3.2 For graduate degrees requiring a research product (dissertation, record of study, thesis, or research paper) the research proposal, at the time of the student's death, must have been signed by each committee member and a significant portion of the dissertation, record of study, thesis or research paper must have been reviewed by the committee and found to be acceptable. Ph.D. students must have been admitted to candidacy.

3.3 For graduate degrees not requiring a research product, the student must have been enrolled in courses at the time of death that would have completed the degree requirements. Exceptional cases will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for review and recommendation to the President.

University of Hawaii at Manoa

For the Posthumous Baccalaureate Degree:

- The student was a senior in his/her final semester of coursework.
- The deceased student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements at the time of death.
- The student would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade, and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.

For the Posthumous Graduate Degree:

- For graduate degrees not requiring a research product, the student was enrolled in courses that would have completed the degree requirements at the time of death; would have passed the courses with an acceptable grade, and would likely have fulfilled the requirements of the degree.
- For graduate degrees requiring a research product, the student had completed all course and mastery requirements pursuant to the degree and was near completion of his/her dissertation, thesis, or Plan B work; and the student's committee found his/her paper to be of substantial work and worthy of the degree.

Eastern Kentucky University

Eastern Kentucky University recognizes the importance of acknowledging significant student achievement at all times, including following the tragic death of a student who has made substantial progress towards the completion of a degree and who has made noteworthy contributions to the University community. It is therefore proposed that posthumous degrees be considered by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student is nominated by the Chair of his/her major department.
2. At the time of his/her death, the student had achieved senior standing/or was within one year of graduation in the case of a Bachelor's degree; fourth semester standing or within one semester of graduation in the case of an Associate's degree; have obtained Candidacy plus completed 75% of program requirements for the Master's degree.
3. The student had been in good academic standing in their program of study at the time of their death.
4. Documentation is provided of the student's noteworthy contributions to the University community during his/her tenure at the University.

Nominations for posthumous degrees should be forwarded to the Chair of the Faculty Senate and copied to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will forward positive recommendations on to the Faculty Senate, unless there is an emergency situation. The Faculty Senate will forward positive recommendations on to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research for implementation. The appropriate degree would be awarded at the Commencement at which the student would have been otherwise recognized. The student's family will be asked to identify an appropriate person to receive the diploma when the student is recognized at the appropriate time in the Commencement ceremony. Except for the fact that the individual receiving the diploma on behalf of the student would not be attired in cap or gown, there would be no other changes in the ceremony.

Oklahoma State University

1.02 Oklahoma State University may confer posthumous degrees in recognition of incomplete earned work that represents substantial progress toward degree completion. In instances where the student's death occurred during or as a result of participation in a University sponsored activity, greater flexibility with regard to progress toward degree may be exercised.

2.01 At the time of death the student should have completed the majority of the degree requirements and be currently enrolled in good academic standing.

2.02 Exceptions to this guideline may be made when the student's death occurred during or as a result of participation in university sponsored activities, or in the case where chronic illness prevented current enrollment.

University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota may grant undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees posthumously. If a college determines that a deceased student has completed sufficient coursework to earn a degree, the college (Twin Cities only) or chief academic officer (or designee) on each coordinate campus has the authority to grant the degree posthumously. Graduate students must have completed enough work toward the thesis or dissertation, if required for the degree.

Cal State University, San Bernardino

At the present time, there is no official campus policy to award undergraduate degrees posthumously.

Purpose: Establish a policy and procedures for awarding undergraduate degrees posthumously. The goal of this policy is to extend sympathy and compassion to the families and friends of deceased students near completion of their degrees. Awarding of a degree posthumously recognizes the academic achievement of the deceased student. Also, the policy acknowledges the loss to the university, family and friends, and extends to them the opportunity to share in the academic success of the deceased student.

Policy: To be eligible for a posthumous undergraduate degree, the student should be within one quarter of meeting the requirements of the degree program.

Procedures: It is appropriate for any interested party to initiate consideration of awarding the degree. The interested party will contact the Dean of the college in which the deceased student's program resided. The Dean (or designee) will initiate with the Director (or Associate Director) of the Records, Registration and Evaluations Office (RRE) a request to conduct a thorough review of the deceased student's progress toward his/her degree objective. A summary of the review will be submitted to the Dean. If the Dean concludes the deceased student should be awarded a degree posthumously, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Provost for concurrence. If the Provost concurs, the recommendation will be submitted to the President for final approval.

Upon prior approval of the family, the name of the deceased student will be announced at Commencement, and the diploma holder will be given to a family member or someone chosen by the family.

Cal Poly

Cal Poly has had a long history of compassionate interaction with families and friends of students who died while enrolled at the University and, that this compassionate interaction is in the best interest of the families and the University. The awarding of a posthumous degree has frequently brought closure to a tragic situation for the family and friends of the deceased student as well as the University. The family or other interested parties of the deceased student may initiate a request for a posthumous degree through the student's major department.

The majority of the faculty in the department of the student's major may recommend to the President the award of a posthumous degree to the family of a deceased student when that student has satisfactorily completed at least two-thirds (2/3) of all coursework towards a degree. Under special circumstances, the President or designee may grant the awarding of a posthumous degree or certificate for a student who has completed less than two-thirds (2/3) of the degree coursework.

Auburn University

Auburn University may confer posthumous baccalaureate and graduate degrees upon students who are deceased prior to but nearing formal completion of all degree requirements of the programs being pursued.

A. Eligibility to be eligible for the award of an Auburn University degree posthumously, the student generally must have met the following conditions:

1. At the time of death, the student was nearing completion of work required for award of the degree. "Nearing completion" is defined as being enrolled in the senior year (or fifth year for five-year curricula) for undergraduate students. For graduate students in thesis programs, significant coursework should have been completed and the student should have commenced the research process. Graduate students in non-thesis programs should have completed a substantial portion of the required coursework.
2. The student was in good academic standing and was successfully progressing toward completion of requirements for the degree to be awarded.
3. Recommendation for award of the degree was made by the faculty in the student's major department, and approved by the department head, school or college dean and Provost, and, in the case of graduate students, the Dean of the Graduate School

Final approval for awarding of posthumous degrees shall rest with the Board of Trustees, which will act upon recommendation of the President of Auburn University.

B. Approval Process

The process for identifying and considering candidates for the award of degrees posthumously shall be as follows:

1. The Vice President for Student Affairs, or the Dean of the Graduate School, upon learning of the death of an Auburn University student, shall ascertain the relative academic standing of the student, as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section A above.
2. If the deceased student is determined to be eligible as a candidate for posthumous award of the degree being pursued, the Vice President for Student Affairs, or the Dean of the Graduate School, will so certify to the Provost.
3. Upon learning that the deceased student is eligible for consideration for the award of a posthumous degree, the Provost will communicate this information to the appropriate school or college dean.
4. The departmental faculty, department head and dean will determine if the student's overall record merits further consideration and recommendation that the posthumous award be granted; such information will be communicated to the Provost.
5. The Provost will weigh all information relating to each case independently and will prepare a recommendation to the President, who will determine if it should be forwarded for Board of Trustees consideration.

Indiana University (IUPUI)

- A candidate must have completed 85% of credit hour requirements and most of the requirements for the major.
- Requests to award a posthumous degree should emanate from the dean's office and must receive the approval of the campus vice chancellor for academic affairs, and the campus chancellor or provost.
- Copies of the written request, plus the requisite approvals, should be sent to the student's school recorder, the registrar, the campus alumni director and University Ceremonies.
- Generally, posthumous degrees are conferred during Commencement season, but not at the main graduation ceremonies. The intent is to honor the student and to celebrate his or her accomplishments in a meaningful way while avoiding an awkward public event that may not be of comfort to the family.

Purdue University (IUPUI)

- A candidate must have completed at least 85% of credit hour requirements and most of the requirements for the major
- For awarding of a posthumous degree requiring a thesis, the following additional provisions will apply:
 - The student must have completed the research to the extent that a thesis or one or more articles in lieu of a thesis can be prepared.
 - The advisory committee must approve the research and results, including a thesis or article(s), and recommend the granting of the degree.