

# **BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY**

## **HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*Approved October 22, 2010*

*Confirmed March 22, 2013*

1. The Honorary Awards Committee has the full authority to select and will select recipients for honorary degrees, recipients for the Order of Athabasca University, and candidates for other honorary awards. The Honorary Awards Committee shall also select other speakers for convocation.
2. Without restricting the generality of its role and within its delegated authorities, the Honorary Awards Committee will:
  - 2.1. Establish the list of honorary degrees and awards;
  - 2.2. Call for nominations and select award recipients;
  - 2.3. Seek to recognize extraordinary achievement in community, national or international service and to honour those individuals whose accomplishments are of such excellence that they provide, through example, inspiration and leadership to the graduates of the university;
  - 2.4. Define as broad a range of categories for achievement as possible in obtaining and considering nominations. A list of such categories might include the arts, scholarly endeavors, business, professional and voluntary service in the community at large and service of long standing or unusual merit to the university. It may also recommend the honoring of individuals whose accomplishment may not have yet achieved wide recognition in their particular field but who are, nonetheless, deserving of that recognition;
  - 2.5. Consider Canadians and non-Canadians;
  - 2.6. Require that honorary graduates attend convocation. An exception to the attendance requirement may be granted in the case of an honorary graduand with extreme physical disability causing restricted mobility. In the event of the death or permanent incapacity of a person who has accepted the offer of an honorary degree from the University to be conferred on a specific date, the award will be made posthumously or on an absentee basis;
  - 2.7. The Order of Athabasca University will normally be conferred during convocation ceremonies or similar high profile public occasions. Except in unusual circumstances,

Board Honorary Awards Committee Terms of Reference

Approved October 22, 2010 – AUGC Motion 171-10

Confirmed March 22, 2013 – Board Motion 181-10

and at the discretion of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University (the “Board”), the Order of Athabasca University must be received in person at convocation ceremonies or similar high profile public occasion within a two-year period from the date the candidate accepted the Board’s invitation to receive the Order of Athabasca University. However, if after indicated willingness to accept, a recipient becomes incapacitated or dies, the award may be conferred in absentia or posthumously.

- 2.8. Not consider currently active politicians, Board members, members of the academic staff or other members of the University community;
  - 2.9. Actively solicit nominations of candidates to receive honorary degrees and awards in accordance with the guidelines established by the Honorary Awards Committee;
  - 2.10. Determine how many honorary degrees and awards (if any) are to be conferred for each convocation;
  - 2.11. Be responsible for the ceremonial life (protocols) of the institution;
  - 2.12. Annually review the Terms of Reference for the Committee and recommend any changes to the Board.
3. Members of the Honorary Awards Committee may nominate award recipients.
  4. Nominations for honorary degrees and related proceedings of the committee are confidential. The Chair of the Honorary Awards Committee will make any announcements relating to the awarding of honorary degrees.