



Policy History
<b>Policy No.</b> AD5
<b>Approving Jurisdiction:</b> Senate
<b>Administrative Responsibility:</b> President
<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2025

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## Honorary Degrees and Awards Policy

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### A. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) (“the University”) recognizes outstanding individuals for their contributions and accomplishments either in or outside of the University Community.

### B. SCOPE AND LIMITS

This policy guides the conferring of honorary degrees and awards at the University, encompassing honorary degrees, distinguished teaching, distinguished scholarship, and emeriti designations.

35.2(5)(b) and (i) of the University Act outlines the power of the Senate which include the power to “set criteria for awarding certificates, diplomas, and degrees, including honorary degrees”, and “set criteria for awards recognizing academic excellence”.

To execute this Policy and Procedure, the Senate has delegated its powers to the Standing Senate Committee of Tributes (SSCT) to regularly review the setting of criteria, and review and adjudicate nominations for Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Teaching and Scholarship awards, and Emeriti designations; and provide recommendations which require approval by the Senate. The Department of Human Resources will regularly review the setting of criteria, and review adjudicate nominations for Distinguished Leadership, Service, and Team awards.

### C. STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. The University recognizes the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of individuals both within and outside the University.
2. The University uses various honours such as distinguished leadership awards, distinguished teaching awards, distinguished scholarship awards, honorary degrees, and emeriti designations to draw attention to outstanding contributions and accomplishments.

3. The University will uphold its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, anti-racism, Indigenization and decolonization, by offering training for committee members related to unconscious biases and how to combat them when adjudicating nominations. The committee will ensure to actively diversify the pool of nominations in a way that reflects the varied interests, backgrounds, and concerns across the University community. As reasonably possible, efforts for diverse and equitable representation will be considered when nominating persons to the Senate Standing Committee on Tributes (SSCT). The Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities is available to provide support and guidance as required.
4. KPU will ensure that only those involved in the nomination process will have access to nominee information during the related processes, and will comply with KPU's obligations under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of BC.
5. The contributions and accomplishments that the University recognizes include, but are not limited to:
  - a. community and public service
  - b. contributions to various fields of studies, including but not limited to the arts, humanities, social sciences, education, science and technology
  - c. long-standing service to the University and/or the educational community served by the University
  - d. examples of outstanding teaching and scholarship
6. The University provides the following awards:
  - a. Distinguished Scholarship Award
  - b. Distinguished Teaching Award
  - c. Emeriti Designation
  - d. Honorary Doctorate Degree
7. The University ensures a fair and open nomination process with a requirement that nominations are supported by evidence of broad support.
8. Selection of these individuals will be accomplished through (an) independent body (or bodies) established within the University for that purpose.
9. Senate has the authority to terminate the designation of emeriti if the individual brings KPU into disrepute. Senate has the authority to rescind any honorary award if the individual brings KPU into disrepute.

## **D. DEFINITIONS**

Refer to the related Procedures document for definitions which will enhance the reader's interpretation of this Policy.

## **E. RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION**

University Act

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.B.C 1996, Ch 165

HR1 Conflict of Interest

HR6 Service Recognition

HR15 Diversity and Inclusiveness

IM2 Freedom of Information

IM4 Confidentiality

## **F. RELATED PROCEDURES**

Refer to AD5 Honorary Degrees and Awards Procedure