

UWF Honorary Awards and Recognition Committee Meeting

Friday, February 7, 2020

1:30 p.m. in 10/131 Conference Room

Minutes Approved by HARC on Aug. 23, 2021

Attendees: President Martha Saunders, Provost George Ellenberg, Deborah Cluff, Denice Curtis, Dean DeBolt, SGA President Zenani Johnson, Dr. Pat Wentz, Dr. Leonid Yanovskiy, and Howard Reddy (chair). Geri Battist attended as committee coordinator.

Absent: Committee member Dr. Leonard Ter Haar -proxy Dean DeBolt; Dr. Chula King proxy - Denice Curtis.

Minutes prepared by Committee Coordinator Geri Battist.

WELCOME

Chair Howard Reddy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Chair Reddy welcomed and thanked committee members for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Reddy asked for a motion to approve the August 23, 2019, meeting minutes. Committee member Provost Ellenberg made a motion to accept the minutes and Leonid Yanovskiy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE NOMINATION

Chair Reddy presented the nomination received from UWF Historic Trust Board Chair J. Collier Merrill accompanied by two letters of support and endorsed by COB Dean Richard Fountain to bestow an honorary doctorate degree (HDD) of Humane Letters to Mr. Lewis Bear Jr. The item was open for discussion. The committee briefly discussed whether the Presidential Medal of Honor was a more suitable recognition to consider bestowing. Committee members acknowledged that the nominee satisfied the following HDD selection criteria: met standards of excellent character and exemplified some dimensions of UWF values; demonstrated extraordinary achievement or distinction in professional life, public service, and philanthropy; and achieved a significant connection with UWF and has history of support of UWF, as well as a record of distinguished contributions to the area served by UWF. President Saunders noted that historically UWF has not bestowed an HDD upon a seated BOT member. If approved, the timing would be more appropriate to bestow the degree once Mr. Bear's BOT term ended. Committee Member Dean DeBolt made the motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by committee member Dr. Pat Wentz. The motion carried unanimously. The chair will prepare and send a letter to the President with HARC approval of recommendation to bring before UWF BOT for approval at the March 18, 2020, meeting, or the June 18, 2020, meeting, whichever is appropriate pending Mr. Bear's status as BOT member.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Coordinator Geri Battist noted the next committee meeting will be scheduled in August 2020 pending nominations received or if other business necessitates.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business was on the agenda. The chair adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.