Committee: Academic and Student Affairs
Date of Meeting: September 14, 2010

Agenda Item: 2009-2010 Honorary Degrees Report

Proposed Policy Change
Approvals Required by Policy
Other Approvals
Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees to provide reports twice a year.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Scott Olson, Interim Vice Chancellor
Manuel López, Associate Vice Chancellor

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

Two institutions awarded two honorary degrees

Background Information:

This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.
INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a report on honorary doctorates awarded in fiscal year 2010.

BACKGROUND

Policy 3.18 was originally adopted in 1996. As a result of a routine five-year review of all board policies, amendments were proposed and the Board of Trustees acted on the policy on January 21, 2009.

On second reading, the Board of Trustees amended the initial motion to add

Part 7. Report to the Board. The Chancellor shall provide a report on honorary degrees awarded to the Board in January and July of each year. The report shall include information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients, and degree designations.

Pursuant to System Procedure 3.18.1 implementing Policy 3.18 and as part of campus procedure, each candidate was recommended to the respective campus president for consideration of the conferral of an honorary degree as specified in procedure. This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.

REPORT

On July 29, 2010 Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson sent a memorandum to college and university presidents requesting information on the honorary degrees awarded at all commencements in academic year 2009-2010. Two institutions awarded two honorary degrees. The awards, recipients and accomplishments are outlined below in the college and universities’ own words.

St. Cloud State University

The Office of the President at St. Cloud State University conveyed that following the recommendation of faculty and staff members on the honorary doctorate committee, chaired by Graduate Dean Dennis Nunes, St. Cloud State University presented an honorary Doctorate of Business Administration to Gordon Viere (class of 1975), CEO of LarsonAllen, one of America’s 20 largest accounting and consulting firms, in recognition of achievement and
outstanding success in his professional and personal life. The conferral of the honorary degree was at the spring semester commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Winona State University

Winona State University awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Shigeko Sasamori at the 2009 Fall Commencement ceremony on December 11, 2009. This award was only the fifth honorary doctorate degree awarded by the university in its 152-year history.

In 2008 Winona State University hosted the Hiroshima Peace Exhibition featuring Ms. Sasamori, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. She described the horrors and brutality of war and shared her commitment to promoting worldwide peace and awareness, a world without war. Ms. Sasamori was an inspiration and had a message for the entire university and greater community. It was seen as appropriate to recognize Ms. Sasamori for her service to the world and her commitment to protecting future generations.

Winona State University campus constituencies reviewed the nomination and support letters and Ms. Sasamori’s resume and supported her candidacy. President Ramaley provided a request and supporting materials to the Chancellor in advance of the award.