

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

Present: Andreas Cangellaris, Chair, Akash Agarwal, Jayadev Athreya, Stephen Cartwright, Jeremy Tyson

Absent: Grace Abernathy, Steven Zimmerman

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD) convened at 9:00 a.m. in Room 155 Everitt Lab with Chair Cangellaris presiding.

I. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Chair Cangellaris thanked members for being able to meet on such short notice. He noted that the need for the meeting is to discuss presenting the commencement speaker, Shahid Khan, with an honorary degree.

Chair Cangellaris reported that he spoke with Chancellor Wise following the last meeting regarding the Committee's suggested that Murthy would be a good choice for a commencement speaker. Chancellor Wise had already chosen Shahid Khan for the commencement speaker this year.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. NOMINATIONS APPROVED FOR COMMENCEMENT 2013

James Thomson – John D. MacArthur Professor, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

The nomination has been approved by the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The honorary degree will be awarded in May 2013.

Fred R. Volkmar – Director, Yale University Child Study Center, and Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry

The nomination has been approved by the Senate and the Board of Trustees. The honorary degree will be awarded in May 2013.

IV. NOMINATIONS APPROVED FOR COMMENCEMENT 2014

Narayana N.R. Murthy, Chairman Emeritus, Infosys Limited

HD approved this nomination for a Doctor of Engineering honorary degree at the last meeting. The nomination will go to the Board of Trustees for pre-approval and then forwarded for Senate approval.

V. REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR COMMENCEMENT 2014:

Michael Ashby – Professor, Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge UK

No new discussion.

Tom Hanks – Actor

No new discussion.

George E. Andrews, Evan Pugh Professor of Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University

HD reviewed the letters of support that were received for the nomination. Richard Askey's letter noted – "In a talk at the meeting in Urbana to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ramanujan's birth, Freeman Dyson referred to George Andrews as the chief gardener in Ramanujan's garden." Freeman Dyson's letter noted – "Besides being a great mathematician and a great leader of research, Professor Andrews is also an outstanding teacher. He has built up at Pennsylvania State University a mathematics department of outstanding quality."

HD approved to send Professor Andrews nomination forward for a Doctor of Science and Letters. The nomination will go to the Board of Trustees for pre-approval and then forwarded for Senate approval.

VI. RECENTLY RECEIVED HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Shahid R. Khan, Owner and Chief Executive Officer, Flex-N-Gate Corporation

The nomination was received from Michael Bragg, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, and will be the commencement speaker this year. Khan is a graduate of UIUC (BS – Industrial Engineering, 1971). He is the owner of Flex-N-Gate and the Jacksonville Jaguars football team, and also owns controlling interest in Flightstar.

His awards include the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1999 from the Department of Mechanical Science and Industrial Engineering, Alumni Award for Distinguished Service in 2006 from the College of Engineering, and the Distinguished Service Award in 2005 from the Alumni Association.

Khan has served on the Carle Foundation Board, the Board of Visitors of the College of Engineering, the University of Illinois Foundation Board, and is a member of the Young Presidents Organization serving as CEO since 1990. He supports several local organizations including Crisis Nursery, Urbana Free Library, Champaign Public Library, Festival of Trees, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University Library, and the College of Business. He has also funded five professorships in the College of Applied Health Sciences.

HD members expressed approval that this nomination has a local connection. HD members agreed it would be appropriate to proceed with requesting letters of support from the references that were provided. It was noted that all the references are from the local area and it might be helpful to request a letter of support from outside the area possibly a connection with the NFL or within the automotive industry. Chair Cangellaris will pursue these outside letters.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Franci Miller
Senate Office