

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

Present: Jeremy Tyson, Chair, Stephen Cartwright, Harrison Kim, Connor Schickel, Steven Zimmerman

Absent: Mckennon Biers, Jinming Zhang

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD) convened at 8:00 a.m. in Room 232 English Building with Chair Tyson presiding.

I. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

Chair Tyson reported that Narayana Murthy asked not to be considered at this time, so his nomination was not forwarded to the Board of Trustees (BOT). The nomination for George Andrews was approved by the BOT and he is scheduled to receive an honorary degree in May. HD members questioned why Murthy asked not to be considered, but Chair Tyson did not have any further information.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October 15 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. NOMINATIONS APPROVED FOR COMMENCEMENT 2014

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

The nomination was approved by the Senate on October 21; however, Murthy asked not to be considered at this time so the nomination was not forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

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

The nomination was approved by the Senate on October 21 and the Board of Trustees on November 14.

IV. REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR COMMENCEMENT 2015:

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

No new discussion.

Dee Dee Bridgewater, American Jazz Singer

Cartwright reported that he met with Charles McNeill, Professor in the School of Music, to discuss this nomination. McNeill noted that Bridgewater has a strong Illinois connection and her brother-in-law is an Associate Professor in the School of Music. McNeill questioned if the nomination should be made by her brother-in-law. HD members discussed this possibility and determined the brother-in-law could help with the nomination but the formal nomination would be stronger if it was made by a non-family member. Cartwright will contact McNeill with the Committee's determination.

Kurt Elling, American Jazz Vocalist

No new discussion.

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

Kim commented that the nominator, Michael Bragg, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, has retired from the University and is now at the University of Washington. HD members noted that a new nomination letter would be needed if it was decided to proceed with this nomination. HD members commented that the nomination is still a strong case, but they were uncertain if the nomination would be well received by the Senate at this time. After discussion, it was agreed to remove the nomination from consideration.

V. RECENTLY RECEIVED HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

Philip A. Sharp, Institute Professor, David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT

Sharp was nominated by James Morrissey, Acting Head of the Department of Biochemistry. Zimmerman commented that Sharp received his PhD in Chemistry from UIUC and has a great relationship with the University. It was noted that Sharp has received a Nobel Prize and co-founded Biogen which is one of the leading bio-tech companies. HD members discussed the nomination and agreed Sharp is an outstanding candidate. It was agreed to send out requests for letters of support for the nomination.

Oprah Winfrey, Philanthropist

Winfrey was nominated by Jan Slater, Dean of the College of Media. Chair Tyson commented that Winfrey is also being considered as the commencement speaker. HD members noted Winfrey's strong connection to the State of Illinois as well as her continued support of education (South Africa) and her philanthropy efforts. It was agreed to send out requests for letters of support for the nomination.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Franci Miller
Senate Office