

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024**  
**232 ENGLISH BUILDING**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Chair Prasanta Kalita, Meng Chen, Paul Davidson, Patrick Holt, Gayle Magee, Pollyanna Rhee, Kevin Richards  
*Ex officio*: Laura Wilhelm-Barr

Absent: None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD) was called to order at 11:35 am with Chair Kalita presiding.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No requests received.

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Kalita welcomed the new faculty member, Gayle Magee, and the new student member, Patrick Holt, elected at the October 14, 2024 Senate meeting.

Chair Kalita gave an overview of the honorary degree award nomination process and noted the importance of confidentiality throughout the process.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a) HD.24.09, Nomination by the Department of Advertising**

HD reviewed the three letters of support that have been received. Rhee noted that the letters are helpful with contextualizing the nominee in his role as a leader. Davidson commented that the latest letter received helped to elevate the nomination, noting the creation of the beverage Sprite's brand identity as a helpful example.

Chair Kalita made a motion to approve the nomination to be presented for approval at the December 9, 2024 Senate meeting. The motion was seconded. HD approved the nomination.

**b) HD.25.02, Nomination by the Department of Dance**

Two letters of support have been received for the nomination. HD will discuss the nomination further once additional letters of support have been received.

**c) HD.25.03, Nomination by the Grainger College of Engineering, the College of Applied Health Sciences, the Gies College of Business, and the College of Veterinary Medicine**

HD reviewed and discussed the five letters of support that have been received. HD noted the strength of the nomination.

Chair Kalita made a motion to approve the nomination to be presented for approval at the December 9, 2024 Senate meeting. The motion was seconded. HD approved the nomination.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) HD.25.04, Nomination by the School of Art and Design**

A nomination was received from Lindsey Stirek, Teaching Assistant Professor in the School of Art and Design, Visiting Assistant Director of Academic Programming for Japan House, and Brooke White, Director of the School of Art and Design.

HD reviewed the nomination materials and noted that the nominee has made an impact at the university but expressed uncertainty of the impact beyond the university. HD suggested that letters of support may help to strengthen the nomination.

HD agreed to move forward with requesting letters of support.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Franci Miller  
Committee Support Staff