

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**  
**232 ENGLISH BUILDING**  
**MINUTES**

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

Absent: Tara Earls Larrison

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD) was called to order at 12:05 pm with Chair Kalita presiding.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 30, 2024 and September 3, 2024 meetings were approved as distributed.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No requests received.

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Kalita welcomed new and returning committee members and had each introduce themselves.

Chair Kalita reported that the honorary degree award nominations for Sabina Alkire (HD.24.01) and Larry Geis (HD.24.07) were approved at the September 16, 2024 Senate meeting. The nominations will be forwarded for inclusion on the November 14, 2024 Board of Trustees agenda. He commented that HD.23.04 (Clarification of Honorary Degree Award Process) was included on the September 16, 2024 Senate agenda as a report for information.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Following the last meeting, Chair Kalita contacted the nomination to request additional references and one additional reference was received. A request for a letter of support was sent. HD will discuss the nomination further when additional letters are received.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Following the last meeting, a letter of support from Sara Hook, Head of the Department of Dance, was received, so HD reviewed and discussed the nomination submitted by Cynthia Oliver, Gutgsell Professor of Dance. HD noted the difficulty to determine the strength of the nomination as individuals without a background in dance. It was agreed to request letters of support from the references included in the nomination materials to provide more clarity on the strength of the nomination.

**b) 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**

A nomination was received from 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 nomination packet. HD noted the strength of the nomination packet and the impact the nominee has made during his career. HD noted the rarity to have four Deans submit a nomination. It was agreed to request letters of support from the references included in the nomination materials.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Franci Miller  
Committee Support Staff