



## **Emeritus Status and Honorary Degrees**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish SFA's criteria and procedures for conferring emeritus titles and honorary degrees.

### **Persons Affected**

This policy applies to faculty, staff, and honorary degree recipients.

### **Policy Statement**

The title Emeritus may be conferred by the President to a retired faculty member to recognize meritorious service. Privileges and qualifications that accompany the title shall be determined by the university president. Emeritus titles are not an entitlement earned simply by virtue of retirement. The title of Emeritus is a position of great honor conferred only on retirees who have a record of distinguished service to Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA).

Separately, SFA may, on occasion, grant honorary degrees to individuals who have over an extended period rendered exceptional contributions to the university or the public interest through public service, philanthropic activity, intellectual or artistic performance, or leadership roles. Honorary degrees may not be awarded to individuals officially associated with the university at the time of the award or to individuals holding elected office unless they have achieved distinction in another field of endeavor.

### **Procedures for conferring emeritus status**

1. To initiate consideration for emeritus status, any tenured member of the academic unit may submit a letter of nomination in support of a potential candidate. The nominated faculty member must submit evidence supporting eligibility per academic unit procedures, such as providing a current curriculum vitae. Although emeritus status is not a promotion, rather, an honorary title, the process will follow unit promotion procedures, with the exception that the nomination process is excluded from promotion timelines.
2. The appropriate dean will then forward a recommendation, along with the supporting materials, to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Provost will review the candidate and make a recommendation in support of the candidate or, alternatively, forward the materials "without support."
3. The university president will review the candidate's materials, together with the Provost's recommendation, and may grant or decline to confer emeritus status.

Privileges and Responsibilities associated with emeritus status:



1. Name listed as an emeritus in the university's General Catalog.
2. Recognition at the commencement ceremony following the granting of the Emeritus title.
3. A place of honor in any academic procession.
4. Right to use the title of Emeritus in professional endeavors.
5. Opportunity to audit courses with fees waived, subject to the availability of space and with the consent of the instructor.
6. Office space, laboratory space, a telephone, and a computer, subject to available space and approval of the academic unit head, the dean, and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.
7. Email privileges, a faculty I.D. card, and university business cards.
8. Use of the Ralph W. Steen Library.
9. Access to university parking, and health and wellness privileges.
10. Opportunity to represent the university at community or professional meetings and serve on committees, upon university request.

### **Administrative Official Eligibility**

The title Emeritus may be given by the President to a retired administrative official to recognize meritorious service. Privileges and qualifications that accompany the title shall be determined by the President. The conferring of this title is not automatic upon retirement.

### **Procedures for conferring Honorary Degrees**

Honorary degrees may be awarded only to a sitting President of the United States. Award of an honorary degree must be reported to the UTS Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the Board.

### **Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards**

Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 31001, Faculty Appointments and Titles  
Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 20301, Honorary Title and Degrees

### **Responsible Executive**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

### **Forms**

None

### **Revision History**

September 1, 2023 (original)