

Procedures for Revoking an Honorary Degree**Approved by Senate February 6, 2023****S23-16**

A written request, with supporting reasons, to consider the revocation of an honorary degree may be made by any person to the Secretary of Senate. The Secretary of Senate and members of the Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH) may not initiate a request for consideration. If a member of Senate makes a request to revoke an honorary degree they must recuse themselves from both discussion and vote upon the matter if it comes before Senate.

The Secretary of Senate will forward any request to consider the revocation of an honorary degree to the Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH).

Initial Consideration by SCUH

SCUH will consider any such request received, and determine if, based on the criteria set out in the policy, there are grounds to proceed with considering the request. If there are insufficient grounds, the Secretary of Senate will send a reply to the person who made the request indicating the request has been considered and is not being pursued.

If SCUH determines there are reasonable grounds to consider the request for the revocation of an honorary degree, the request will be subject to the rest of this procedure.

Notice to Recipient and Opportunity to Make Representations

The Secretary of Senate, on behalf of the SCUH, will send, by registered letter (or equivalent), a written notice advising the recipient of the basis of the allegations; the relevant information the SCUH has received; and that revocation is under consideration. Within the time prescribed in the notice, the recipient may:

- make representations respecting the matter under consideration or any allegation of fact set out in the notice,
- request the process be halted by voluntarily returning their degree parchment, and relinquishing all rights and privileges associated with their honorary degree.

If the recipient elects to voluntarily return their honorary degree, they will notify the Secretary of Senate in writing of that fact within the time prescribed in the notice. After SCUH accepts the voluntarily returned honorary degree, the person's name will be struck from Simon Fraser University's record of honorary graduates, and the person must return the honorary degree parchment to the Secretary of Senate. The Secretary of Senate shall notify the Chair of the SCUH that the honorary degree parchment has been voluntarily returned. The University will make a brief public statement that the recipient has returned their honorary degree and are no longer considered an honorary graduate of the University. The public statement will not identify the reason(s) the degree was returned.

If the recipient elects to make representations respecting the matter under consideration or any allegation of fact set out in the notice, the person or their representative may submit such representations in writing to the Secretary of Senate within the time prescribed in the notice.

If the recipient fails to respond within the time prescribed, the Secretary of Senate will request that the SCUH proceed in accordance with this procedure.

Recommendation by SCUH

If the person has made representations, those representations and all other relevant documentation will be sent to the SCUH for its consideration. The SCUH may seek other publicly-available or objectively-confirmed information it determines relevant to the request to revoke an honorary degree (for example, criminal conviction following exhaustion of all appeal avenues, misconduct censure by the recipient's professional organization, etc.) and may engage in consultation with community members or identified experts on a confidential basis. If additional information arises from such research or consultation that SCUH will consider, the recipient will be notified and have an opportunity to make supplemental representations in writing to the Secretary of Senate within the time prescribed in the notice. If the recipient fails to respond within the time prescribed, the Secretary of Senate will request that the SCUH proceed in accordance with this procedure. After due consideration of all relevant information (including any supplemental representations from the recipient) in an in-camera session of SCUH, the SCUH will vote on whether the honorary degree should be revoked.

Quorum for consideration or revoking an honorary degree shall be 2/3 (two-thirds) of the committee membership.

A recommendation by SCUH to revoke an honorary degree will require the support of 2/3 (two-thirds) of members of SCUH present following deliberation. Upon receipt of such a recommendation from SCUH, the Senate shall consider the recommendation in an in-camera session, and require the support of 2/3 (two-thirds) of the senators present to revoke the degree.

If SCUH does not vote in favour of recommending the revocation of the degree, the secretary to SCUH will write to the individual(s) who requested the degree be revoked and the recipient of the honorary degree to inform them that the honorary degree will remain as originally awarded.

If SCUH votes in favour of recommending the revocation of the degree, the SCUH Chair shall prepare for Senate a report that contains its recommendation and reasons to revoke the honorary degree.

Consideration by Senate

Senate shall consider the report, recommendation, and reasons in an in-camera session of Senate. Revocation of the honorary degree will require 2/3 (two-third) majority vote of the senators present to revoke the honorary degree.

If Senate does not vote in favour of revoking the honorary degree, then the Secretary of Senate will write to the individual(s) who requested the degree be revoked and the recipient of the honorary degree to inform them that the honorary degree will remain as originally awarded.

If Senate votes in favour of revoking the honorary degree, the recipient shall be informed of the decision and be instructed to return their honorary degree parchment. The person's name shall be struck from Simon Fraser University's records of honorary graduates and the person shall lose all rights and privileges associated with their honorary degree.

The University will make a brief public statement that the recipient has had their honorary degree revoked and are no longer considered an honorary graduate of the University. The public statement may identify the reason(s) the degree was revoked.

Further Requests

If either SCUH does not vote in favour of recommending the revocation of the honorary degree, or Senate does not vote in favour of revoking the honorary degree, then the matter will be considered closed, any further requests to revoke shall be dismissed unless such further requests present substantial new evidence that was not available at the time the initial request was considered.

Confidentiality of Process

All deliberations of the SCUH and Senate must be kept strictly confidential, and any recommendations arising from such deliberations must be treated confidentially by the body or persons in receipt of such recommendations.

Procedure Review

Following the consideration of a request to revoke a degree SCUH will review procedures and make necessary adjustments to ensure a fair and thorough process.