



RESOLUTION-POLICY

X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President
To: Dr. James Newell, Provost
Date: 4/15/13
RE: Senate Resolution *130412-1*

Posthumous Degrees Policy

Rationale: Last year, the family of a student who had passed away asked the university if that student could receive a posthumous degree. Unfortunately, because of the restrictions in the current language, the university was forced to decline the request.

After consultations with Roberta Harvey, Richard Jones and Joanne Connor, the Academic Policies and Procedures committee developed the proposed changes listed below. The consensus view is that because requests for posthumous degrees are very rare, and because there is little harm in granting them, those degrees should be awarded in most circumstances.

Current Language:

Awarding of Posthumous Degrees

In certain rare instances, Rowan University may award a posthumous degree. In such cases, students who have earned a minimum of 90 credits toward their bachelor's degree (or 75% of the credits necessary for a master's degree) and have been in good standing at the time of their death may be eligible to receive a posthumous degree. Each case will be handled individually and the dean must request that a posthumous degree be conferred. Such degrees will be considered for award only in the academic year in which the student would normally have graduated.

Proposed Language (to be included on Provost's webpage):

In certain instances, Rowan University may award a posthumous degree. Requests for posthumous degrees may be made by the family, or by Rowan faculty or staff. Inquiries regarding posthumous degrees should be submitted to the office of the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students.

Procedure:

Requests for posthumous degrees will be evaluated by a committee that includes representatives from the Student Government Association, Division of Student Life, University Senate, the President's Office, the Division of Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Students. They will make a recommendation to the Dean of the College in which the student had been enrolled. The Dean will make the final decision and will issue a letter conferring the degree.

Acceptance:

_____ I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to _____ for implementation.

_____ No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

_____ I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

_____ Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

_____ I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

_____ I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

Please Return this Copy to the University Senate President ~ Retain a Copy for Your Records