

To: Richard Leeman, Faculty President
From: Kim Harris, Chair FAPSC
Date: October 4, 2018
Re: Motion to revise the Academic Policy concerning Posthumous Degree

Appendices:

Memo from Leslie Zenk to Richard Leeman concerning policy changes
Tracked Changes: Posthumous Degree

Motion. At our September 18, 2018 meeting, the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee voted unanimously to recommend the revisions to the UNC Charlotte Academic Policy concerning Posthumous Degrees. A version of the current policy with the tracked recommended changes is appended as a separate document.

Justification.

- The committee agreed that changing the phrase “duly enrolled” to “in good standing in an undergraduate degree or certificate program” was appropriate. The phrase “duly enrolled” is not defined in other policies, the phrase “in good standing” is clearly understood by the campus community.
- The committee also agreed that recognizing the work of students who had not completed the requirements for the Posthumous Degree was appropriate.
- The committee agreed that including certificate programs in the process of awarding Posthumous Degrees and Degrees in Memoriam was appropriate.



Office of Academic Affairs

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MEMO

Date: September 29, 2017

To: Dr. Richard Leeman
President, Faculty Council

From: Leslie Zenk
Assistant Provost

Cc: Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant

Re: UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Posthumous Degree

Members of the UNC Charlotte academic community have expressed a desire for changes to our existing policy on posthumous degrees. Following consultation with the Associate Deans, the following changes are recommended:

“Duly enrolled” – The use of the phrase “duly enrolled” in the undergraduate portion of the policy is often a point of confusion. Recommended changes align the undergraduate and graduate portions of the policy and use the more standard language “good standing”.

Certificates – Our current policy does not allow for students who were enrolled in certificate programs to be recognized. Recommended changes include certificates as an option for Posthumous Degrees, and the percentage required is aligned with the SACSCOC standard.

Degrees In Memoriam – It has been our current practice to offer certificates of Alumnus in Spirit at the request of faculty to students who have passed away but do not meet the requirements for a Posthumous Degree. The recommended changes include formalizing this process and referring to these certificates as “Degrees in Memoriam.”

I am requesting that the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee review the attached proposed revisions and seek approval for the policy change through Faculty Council if they agree it is warranted.

Enclosure: UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Posthumous Degree

UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Posthumous Degrees and Degrees In Memoriam

I. Introduction

To provide families of deceased students with a meaningful acknowledgement of the student's accomplishments and legacy while, at the same time, balancing the need for and upholding academic and institutional integrity in the awarding of degrees. University policy provides for the awarding of a Posthumous award of a Degree or Degree in Memoriam to students if, at the time of their death, they had not completed degree requirements but the conditions specified below are satisfied.

II. Policy Statement

POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

A Posthumous Degree is a regular UNC Charlotte degree that is included as part of the University's official count of degrees, but is awarded posthumously.

For undergraduate degrees and certificates: Any student who at the time of death was duly enrolled in good standing in an undergraduate degree or certificate program and had at least 90 credit/semester hours toward a degree or 75% of credit hours toward a certificate at UNC Charlotte shall, upon recommendation by the faculty of the college and approval by the University faculty, be awarded the degree or certificate posthumously.

For graduate degrees and certificates: Any student who at the time of death was in good standing in a graduate degree program and had completed approximately two-thirds of the requirements toward a graduate degree or certificate at UNC Charlotte shall, upon recommendation by the faculty of the program and approval by the University faculty, be awarded the degree posthumously.

IN MEMORIAM DEGREES IN MEMORIAM

A Degree in Memoriam is a recognition provided to honor a deceased student's progress toward the degree. The Degree in Memoriam is not included in the official count of degrees.

For undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates: A student who was in good standing at the University at the time of his or her death and who does not meet the requirements necessary to be awarded a posthumous degree may be awarded a Degree in Memoriam. Degrees in Memoriam will read “Bachelor of Arts in Memoriam,” “Bachelor of Science in Memoriam,” “Master of Arts in Memoriam,” “Doctor of Philosophy in Memoriam,” etc. depending upon the degree the student was pursuing at the time of death. Undergraduate students in University College will be awarded the “Bachelor of Arts in Memoriam.”

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