

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES
(Final; Information)

HD.26.04 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD) during the 2025-2026 academic year. HD held two meetings during the fall 2025 semester (September 11, October 21) and four meetings during the spring 2026 semester (January 27, February 17, March 24, April 21). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

HD.25.04, Nomination by the School of Art and Design

HD received a nomination from the School of Art and Design. After reviewing the nomination materials, HD determined that the nominee would be better suited to be recognized with the Chancellor's Medallion. The nomination was transmitted to Chancellor Isbell on 02/18/2026 for consideration of recognition with the Chancellor's Medallion.

HD.26.03, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on HD's charge, composition, and function. HD responded to the request on 03/11/2026.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

HD.25.02, Nomination by the Department of Dance

HD.26.01, Nomination by the Department of Sociology

HD.26.02, Internal Review of the Honorary Degree Award Process

HD approved an internal report that outlined the process HD follows in awarding honorary degrees, the criteria HD follows, and the process and aftermath of the Senate rejection of HD.25.05. The internal report found that HD followed all processes and recommended revisions to the honorary degree award process. HD transmitted the internal report to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) on 02/19/2026.

HONORARY DEGREES

Prasanta Kalita, Chair

Bisola Adeleke

Paul Davidson

Jon Hale

Patrick Holt

Gayle Magee

Pollyanna Rhee

Anna Simon, *ex officio*