

## UC Davis Medal Protocol

### I. BACKGROUND

Although the University of California does not award honorary degrees, there are special circumstances under which UC Davis honors individuals in a similar fashion. UC Davis has established the UC Davis Medal for this purpose.

### II. POLICY

The UC Davis Medal is the highest accolade that the campus may present to an individual. The awarding of the UC Davis Medal is recognition of the very highest levels of distinction, personal achievement, and contributions to the ideals of higher education on which UC Davis is founded. The UC Davis Medal is awarded to a member of the university community through the process described below.

#### A. Approval Process

The UC Davis Medal shall only be awarded upon approval of the Chancellor, in consultation with the UC Davis Medal Advisory Committee. Committee members who are not *ex officio* shall customarily serve a three-year term and are appointed by the Chancellor. The committee should be comprised of nine members, including: the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor (who serves as chair), the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, one Vice Chancellor, the chair of the UC Davis Division of the Academic Senate and five distinguished faculty in separate academic disciplines representing the breadth of UC Davis. The office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs shall oversee the administration and processing of nominations for the UC Davis Medal, and the Vice Provost-Academic Affairs will serve as liaison between the committee and the Office of the Chancellor.

#### B. Award Ceremony

The awarding of the UC Davis Medal shall customarily occur at the most appropriate of the annual degree-conferring commencement ceremonies or at a separate event specifically for the purpose of awarding the medal. It is expected that on such occasions the Chancellor will personally present the UC Davis Medal as part of the ceremony.

#### C. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted only by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Provost and the Chair of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate.

### III. CRITERIA

The recipient of the UC Davis Medal must be an individual who has had a close association with UC Davis as an alumnus, faculty member, administrator or friend of the university, whose achievements, activities or services have made an extraordinary contribution to the betterment and renown of the University. Contributions that might be recognized by the UC Davis Medal would include truly exceptional

accomplishments in research and teaching, contributions to society that bring wide national or international acclaim to the university, activities in support of the university that have an unusually significant positive impact on its operations, and other forms of service of special significance.

The UC Davis Medal shall be bestowed on individuals in any field of endeavor and shall not be based primarily on financial or political considerations.

The UC Davis Medal shall not be awarded to state or local elected officials, members of the Board of Regents of the University of California or employees of the University of California until eleven months or more have passed since the date at which they have stepped down from those duties.

The UC Davis Medal shall not be awarded posthumously or *in absentia*.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

Formal nominations shall include a letter addressing the qualities that distinguish the candidate for nomination, and should include a brief biography of the nominee. These letters accompanying the nomination should be submitted confidentially to the Vice Provost-Academic Affairs before October 31 of each calendar year.

Only the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, the Chair of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, or any Vice Chancellor, Vice Provost or Dean may submit nominations for consideration for the UC Davis Medal. Nominations can only be submitted through these individuals.

No more than one nomination per nominator may be considered at meetings of the UC Davis Medal Advisory Committee, which will customarily occur in November or December of each year, or at other times at the special request of the Chancellor. Only one UC Davis Medal may be conferred at any commencement ceremony.

Recommendations from the UC Davis Medal Advisory Committee should be communicated to the Chancellor by the end of January.

Invitations to accept the UC Davis Medal will be made only by the Chancellor.

Potential recipients who are unable to accept the UC Davis Medal in the academic year in which they are nominated may receive the award at a later date only at the discretion of the Chancellor. Otherwise, they must be re-nominated in accordance with this policy to be considered for the UC Davis Medal in a subsequent year.

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