

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 presented by the campus 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 will only be awarded on approval of the Chancellor, in consultation with the UC Davis Medal Advisory Committee. Committee members who are not *ex officio* will 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 (who serves as vice chair), 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 names of advisory committee members should remain confidential and not be shared with nominators or others outside of the committee, to protect members' anonymity and, therefore, the objectivity and fairness of the selection process. The office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will oversee the administration and processing of nominations for the UC Davis Medal, and will serve as liaison between the committee and the Office of the Chancellor.

B. Award Ceremony

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

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 constitute extraordinary contributions 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 will be presented to individuals in any field of endeavor and will not be based primarily on financial or political considerations.

The UC Davis Medal will not be awarded to state or local, elected or appointed 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 stepped down from those duties.

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

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Nominators

Only the Chancellor, the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, 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.

B. Required Materials

Nominations (one per college or school) should include the following materials:

- A letter (signed by one individual – a vice provost, dean or vice chancellor) addressing the qualities that distinguish the candidate for nomination
- The nominee's one-page biography or one-page CV
- No seconding nomination letters or additional letters of support are required. None will be accepted.

C. Submissions

Nominations should be submitted confidentially to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs by October 31 of each calendar year.

D. Selection and Presentation

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.

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

Only one UC Davis Medal may be conferred at any commencement ceremony.

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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