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UC 691600S

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members  
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Lawrence Curry, Chair  
Undergraduate Council *L. Curry*

DATE: 10 May 2000

SUBJECT: Awarding bachelor's degrees posthumously

I recommend that the University of Houston adopt the following policy, effective immediately.

Upon the recommendation of the dean of the college of the student's major and the approval of the provost and the president, a student who dies before completing all degree requirements shall be awarded a bachelor's degree posthumously if **all** of the following conditions had been met at the time of the student's death.

1. The student was in his or her last semester at the university and either had been or was eligible to be approved for graduation.
2. The student was making satisfactory progress toward the successful completion of all remaining degree and graduation requirements.

The posthumous degree shall be awarded with any academic honors for which the student was eligible at the time of his or her death.

If approved, I think the policy might appropriately be added to the *Undergraduate Studies* catalog immediately following the section "Graduation with Honors" at the end of the chapter on "Regulations and Requirements."

This seems to me to be a reasonable and humane policy that does not in any way compromise the university's academic integrity. We would simply be acknowledging to the family and friends of the student who died in his or her last semester here that, based on the student's academic work already in progress, we expected the student to earn his or her degree at the end of the semester and wanted the student's family to have an official symbol of their student's academic achievements at the University of Houston. I expect that this policy would not come into play often, but would be very important to the family of the deceased on those few occasions when it was appropriate.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I will be happy to try to answer them and to appear before any committee of the Council to explain my recommendation further.

Copy to: Brian McKinney