

## University of New England

### HONORARY AND DISTINGUISHED AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### POLICY FRAMEWORK

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#### **Purpose**

The University's framework for honorary and distinguished awards and appointments is intended to encompass the various avenues for recognizing and rewarding service and contribution to the University and/or outstanding achievement. The awards and appointments incorporated in the framework have been established to facilitate such recognition as well as to foster links between the University and its wider community.

#### **Framework**

The framework for honorary and distinguished awards and appointments has been structured to outline the forms of distinction.

In summary, the awards and appointments available can be divided into four categories:

##### 1 Awards for Distinguished Service and/or Academic Eminence

Awards in this category are made by the Council of the University of New England.

The objective of awards made in this category is to recognize and reward persons who have contributed or are actively contributing to the University, in addition to one or more of the following:

- (i) have made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field(s); and/or
- (ii) have given outstanding service to the community.

In each case assessment of candidates' service and achievements will be made in relation to their lifetime, thereby not precluding the conferment of an award on a young person of exceptional merit.

Notwithstanding these criteria, the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor may make recommendations for honorary awards.

The awards and titles encompassed in this category are as follows:

(a) *Honorary Degrees*

Honorary degrees may be awarded by the University Council on the basis of academic eminence and/or distinguished public service, in keeping with the *UNE Honorary Degrees Policy*. Recipients will be expected to have contributed or be actively contributing to the University. Recipients are conferred with their degrees at the next graduation ceremony or some other appropriate ceremony, after the award has been accepted.

(b) *Distinguished Fellow of the University*

The title of Distinguished Fellow of the University may be conferred by the University Council on the basis of the following criteria.

They display:

- demonstrated support of the interests and welfare of the University;
- promotion or facilitation of the academic purposes of the University;
- fostering of educational opportunities for those with limited prospects of a University education; and
- fostering of links between the University and outside bodies.

Recipients of this honour are conferred with the title at an appropriate graduation ceremony.

(c) *Distinguished Graduate Fellow of the University*

The title of Distinguished Graduate Fellow of the University may be conferred by the University Council in recognition of distinguished graduates of the University (including its antecedent institutions) who have a continuing association with the University, on the basis of the following criteria.

They display:

- a. outstanding leadership, professional and human qualities;
- b. demonstrated contributions to their profession, business and/or community at local, national and/or international levels;

and one or more of the following:

- demonstrated support of the interest and welfare of the University;
- promotion or facilitation of the academic purposes of the University;
- fostering of educational opportunities at UNE for those with limited prospects of a university education; and
- fostering of links between the University and outside bodies

Nomination procedure Fellow of the University and Graduate Fellow of the University.

- Any proposal for the award of the title Fellow of the University or Graduate Fellow of the University must first be discussed with the Vice-Chancellor.

- Any person so nominated for the award of the title Fellow of the University or Graduate Fellow of the University shall not be consulted beforehand, and all deliberations, investigations and recommendations relating to the nomination shall be treated as strictly confidential by all persons concerned therewith until such times as a decision is finalized.
- Any proposal for the award of the title Fellow of the University or Graduate Fellow of the University must include a current Curriculum Vitae, outline of the reasons for making the proposal and a citation on the nominee suitable for presentation at a degree conferring ceremony.
- Any proposal for the award of the title Fellow of the University or Graduate Fellow of the University may be made by any member of Convocation.
- Any proposal for the award of the title Fellow of the University or Graduate Fellow of the University must be forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor's *ad hoc* Selection Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Honorary Degrees, Titles and Tributes Committee of the University Council.

(d) *Distinguished Alumni Awards*

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a UNE graduate who:

- displays outstanding leadership, professional and human qualities; and
- contributes to their profession, business and/or community at local, national and/or international levels

Nominations may be made by any member of Convocation (as defined in the *University of New England Act 1993* – Section 14) and submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, who will convene an *ad hoc* selection committee to consider the nomination. The award will be conferred, where possible, at an alumni function hosted by the Vice-Chancellor in the location of the recipient.

(e) *Young Distinguished Alumni Award*

The Young Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a UNE graduate who:

- is 30 years old or younger in the year of the award; and
- demonstrates outstanding professional achievements and/or community involvement likely to be an inspiration to the next generation of graduates and the community at large.

Nominations may be made by any member of Convocation (as defined in the *University of New England Act 1993* – Section 14) and submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, who will convene an *ad hoc* selection committee to consider the nomination. The award will be conferred at the relevant October graduation ceremony and the recipient will be invited to address the graduands.

## 2 Honorary Titles and Appointments for Recognition/Facilitation of Academic Service to the University

Honorary membership of the University, in the form of an appropriate appointment, is given by the Vice-Chancellor on recommendation of the Academic Board or its Standing Committee. The only exception to this is conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor, which is made by the University Council.

The objective of appointments made in this category is to recognize and reward persons who have made or will continue to make a significant contribution to the University, as follows:

- (i) to permit recognition, upon retirement or other departure from membership of the University, the contribution made to the work of the University;
- (ii) to provide a formal means by which such former staff members may continue an association with the University in research, scholarship or teaching;
- (iii) to give formal recognition to people who are not staff members, for their contribution to the supervision of part of the work of graduate students; and
- (iv) to provide a formal means by which people who are not staff members can become associated with its research work and use some of its facilities.

Several classes of honorary membership have been established, including Honorary Fellow, Honorary research fellow, Honorary Associate and Honorary Research Associate.

One form of honorary membership, the title of Emeritus Professor, is awarded by the Council of the University on recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor or by written nomination signed by three Professors of the University. This title may be conferred only upon a Professor who retires or resigns. Normally the criteria for eligibility will include the requirement that the Professor has held a Chair in the University for a period of ten years or has been a staff member for at least fifteen years.

### 3 University Service Awards

These awards are made at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.

The objective of awards made in this category is to recognize and reward members of the general and academic staff of the University who have made outstanding contributions to the University through one or more of the following.

- (i) Outstanding service by general staff to the University
- (ii) Excellence in teaching by academic staff
- (iii) Achievement in research by academic staff

In each case, assessment of candidates' service and achievement will be made in relation to their lifetime, thereby not precluding the conferment of an award on a young person of exceptional merit.

The awards encompassed by this category are as follows:

#### (a) *Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Service (General Staff)*

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for service are awarded annually by a Committee of the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of (1) outstanding service by members of general staff to the University and (2) outstanding service by members of general staff in moving the University forward in pursuit of its mission and objectives.

#### (b) *Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching (Academic Staff)*

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching are awarded annually by the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of excellence in teaching, including the planning of unit materials, appropriate teaching and learning activities, assessment of students and evaluation and reflection on the teaching and learning process.

(c) *Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Achievement (Academic Staff)*

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Achievement are awarded annually by the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of distinction in research achievement as demonstrated by publications, patentable inventions and other research output appropriate to the discipline; research impact; and recognition by national and international research communities in the discipline or research field. Research achievement must have been demonstrated over the past five years, a significant amount of which should have been completed at UNE.

4 Academic Achievement Awards

The objective of awards made in this category is to recognize and reward students who have achieved outstanding results in their studies or related activities at the University.

The awards encompassed by this category are as follows:

(a) *University Medals*

The University Medal may be awarded to a graduand or graduands and is a distinction signifying that the recipient shows exceptional academic achievement and promise at the time of the award. The method for arriving at the assessment is necessarily different across all four faculties.

(b) *University Scholarships, Prizes and Other Awards*

The University administers numerous scholarships, prizes and other awards, primarily for award to students, the criteria for each of which are outlined in the University Handbook.