

Board Meeting
January 21, 2010

APPROVE HONORARY DEGREES, URBANA

Action: Approve the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degrees

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign campus has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following people at the Commencement Exercises on May 16, 2010:

Erich Bloch, Director, The Washington Advisory Group and Former Director, National Science Foundation – the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering

Mr. Bloch served as the Director of the National Science Foundation from 1984 to 1990 and oversaw the Foundation's \$3.0 billion annual budget and the award of 12,000 to 14,000 research grants in natural, physical and social sciences, education, and engineering. Previously, Mr. Bloch was IBM Corporate Vice President for Technical Personnel Development. Currently, as a Director of The Washington Advisory Group, he advises on corporate research and development management and strategic planning for academically based research enterprises and other not-for-profit organizations. He was awarded the National Medal of Technology and is a recipient of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Founders Medal, National Science Foundation's Vannevar Bush Award, and the National Academy of Engineering's Arthur M. Bueche Award. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institution of Engineers of Ireland, the Swedish Academy of Engineering Science, a Fellow of IEEE and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a foreign member of the Engineering Academy of Japan.

Po-King Betty Chan, Chairman, Board of Directors, Yew Chung Education Foundation – the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Dr. Chan has been a pioneer in early childhood education in China as well as internationally. She received her bachelor's and master's degree in education at the University of Hawaii and later completed her doctorate in child development and early childhood education at Tel Aviv University, Israel. She has been influential in the establishment of schools in Hong Kong and China. She took over directing a school in Hong Kong which was established by the Yew Chung Education Foundation and founded in 1932 by Dr. Chan's mother, Madame Tsang Chor-hang. The school has been open continually since its founding, except for the period during the Japanese occupation. Dr. Chan served as a consultant in the establishment of early childhood programs at the Hong Kong Institute of Education which is an amalgamation of various colleges of education. She was appointed by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, as Chairperson of the Sir Jack Cater Scholarship Fund Selection Committee and served on the planning committee related to education that developed the Basic Laws for the HKSAR. She chaired the Child Education and Community Services Discipline Board of the Vocational Training Council, and serves as an advisor of the Center for Child Development, Hong Kong Baptist University. Dr. Chan is a founding member and President of the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association.

Richard M. Felder, Professor Emeritus, Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University – the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering

Dr. Felder is known for his ground-breaking contributions to engineering education and engineering education research. He is widely known within the chemical engineering discipline for his enduring book *Elementary Principles of Chemical Processes* which has been a fixture in undergraduate chemical engineering curricula for decades. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering based on his work in education. Dr. Felder has published more than 200 articles on engineering and science education. He was selected as a Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education and received the Warren K. Lewis Award for Contributions to Chemical Engineering Education from the American Institute for Chemical Engineering. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Pedagogical Scholarship from the American Society for Engineering Education.

Arnold L. Mitchem, President, Council for Opportunity in Education – the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Dr. Mitchem began his career on the history faculty at Marquette University and in 1969 was named the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University, Milwaukee. In 1986, he moved to Washington, D.C. to become the first and only President of the Council for Opportunity in Education. He has been a voice for low-income, first-generation students and individuals with disabilities his entire career and a champion for improving access and opportunity

in education. Because of his work, TRIO Programs have expanded by nearly 400 percent and now serve more than 872,000 students at 1,200 colleges and universities. Dr. Mitchem is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Access Network as well as a former Trustee of the College Board, and Past-President of the Committee for Education Funding, a Washington-based coalition of national education associations.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Interim Provost/Chancellor concurs with this recommendation.

The Interim President of the University recommends approval.