

Board Meeting
March 26, 2008

APPROVE HONORARY DEGREE, URBANA

Action: Approve the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degree

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign campus has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at the Commencement Exercises on May 11, 2008:

James M. McPherson, Civil War Historian and Professor Emeritus, Princeton University--the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters

Dr. McPherson is considered the preeminent popular historian of the Civil War. He authored *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (1988) which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history, the Christopher award, and Best Book Award of the American Military Institute. His *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought In The Civil War* won the Lincoln prize and his *The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction* won the Anisfield-Wolf Prize. His work has done much to renew an interest in history among the general public and especially an interest in Abraham Lincoln. He has published eleven books, edited numerous volumes, contributed to a wide variety of articles to journals and books, and wrote introductions to the published works of numerous young scholars helping launch their careers. Dr. McPherson became the youngest full professor ever in Princeton University's history, and spent over forty years at that institution. He has served as president of both the Society of American Historians and the American Historical Association.

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation.

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 President of the University recommends approval.