Procedure to Revoke Award of an Honorary Degree

Principle

This procedure has been established to provide a mechanism to enable the award of an Honorary Degree to be revoked where, exceptionally, it is felt necessary to do so. The procedure, while seeking to ensure any such request is given appropriate consideration, also seeks to moderate against (a) a proliferation of proposals for withdrawal and (b) an honorary graduate falling foul of populist thinking.

With the above in mind, the following key principles underpin the procedure:

- In order for consideration to revoke an Honorary Degree be undertaken, substantial new information must have been received which could not reasonably have been available at the time of award;
- The situation and values of the time at which the degree was awarded remain relevant considerations;
- The procedure cannot be applied post-humously.

Procedure

1. Any request to revoke the award of an Honorary Degree should be submitted in writing to the University Secretary. In proposing that consideration be given to revoking an award, the person(s) submitting the request must include all relevant material to support their request at the time of submission. No further evidence can be submitted at a later stage.

2. The Principal, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee and the Senior Governor of Court and with advice from the University Secretary will consider any request received and determine, on the basis of the information submitted, if a review should be undertaken.

3. Where, on the basis of the evidence presented, it is felt necessary to undertake a review, this will be referred to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

   The Honorary Degrees Committee (or sub-committee thereof as determined on a case-by-case basis) shall review the case and in doing so may seek input as appropriate from other members of the University and externally. The Honorary Graduate will be advised of the review and will be invited to comment on the reasons why it is proposed to withdraw the degree.

   Having conducted the review, the Honorary Degrees Committee will submit a recommendation to the Senatus Academicus setting out whether or not it recommends the degree is revoked.

4. The Senatus Academicus will receive the recommendation from the Honorary Degrees Committee together with any comments submitted by the holder and will determine whether to accept or reject the recommendation.

5. The Senatus Academicus will inform both the Honorary Graduate and the person(s) making the request of the decision.