

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Senate of the University of Victoria recognizes and honours individuals for their outstanding achievements by awarding them honorary degrees. Such degrees are presented at Convocation. Orators play a vital role in recognizing and celebrating the recipients. They research, write and deliver citations that articulate for both a general and an academic audience, the reasons why the honorary degree is being granted.

The University maintains a roster of orators, appointed by the Senate, that includes a University Orator, a Deputy University Orator and other orators.

I University Orator

The University Orator will:

1. research and write citations for honorary graduands and read those citations at Convocation;
2. provide instruction and advice to other orators;
3. assign orators to work on particular citations;
4. edit draft citations; and
5. assist in the recruitment and orientation of new orators.

II Deputy University Orator

The Deputy University Orator will:

1. research and write citations for honorary graduands and read those citations at Convocation; and
2. act for the University Orator when he or she is absent.

III Orators

The Orators will:

1. research and write citations for honorary graduands and read their citations at Convocation.

PROCEDURES

1. The University Orator, Deputy University Orator and other Orators will be appointed by the Senate upon the recommendation of the President. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Convocation Committee will advise the President on such appointments.
2. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Convocation Committee will seek to appoint as orators members of the university community who:
 - are excellent public speakers;
 - are able to shape biographical materials into a portrait which explains the achievements and qualities of the recipient of the honorary degree (ie: not a mere c.v.);
 - are available at the times of Convocation (spring, fall); and
 - enjoy seeing students convocate and participating in Convocation.
3. The term of appointment will normally be three years, renewable, from July 1 to June 30.

NOTES

1. Service as an orator is deemed to be service to the university under the Collective Agreement (Joint Committee on the Administration of the Framework Agreement Annual Report 2006).
2. An individual who has not yet been appointed as an orator by the Senate may be invited by the University Orator to prepare and deliver a citation.