

May 9, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: David L Buhler
SUBJECT: Adoption of Regents Policy R211, *Emeritus Status*

Issue

The Board of Regents requested a policy for granting emeritus status to high-performing past presidents who meet certain criteria.

Background

Emeritus status is an honorary designation that the Board would make available to former presidents who have served the institution with honor and success. Emeritus status is a common designation throughout higher education, though the criteria for granting the status to a former president varies widely. The proposed policy R211 adopts the most frequently adopted criteria from peer institutions and establishes additionally criteria not found in other systems, making this proposed policy one of the most restrictive for institutions that allow for emeritus status.

R211 specifically requires the president to have served for ten years in a high level administrative capacity to have had announced his or her intent to effectively retire from university leadership and return to the faculty or permanently retire. Lastly, a president emeritus cannot hold another leadership position and retain the emeritus status.

Having a policy that standardizes the criteria for emeritus status will ensure only the most deserving receive the honor and that the Board of Regents will be the sole conferring body.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends Regents approve R211, *Emeritus Status* effective immediately.

David L Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/GLS
Attachments

R211-1. Purpose: To provide direction and criteria for granting a former institutional president emeritus status.

R211-2. References

- 2.1. Utah Code §53B-2-103, Establishment of State Board of Regents -- Powers, Duties, and Authority.

R211-3. Emeritus Status

3.1. Board Designation: The Board of Regents may grant a former institutional president emeritus status at its discretion or at the request of a board of trustees.

3.2. Emeritus Status: Emeritus status is an honorary designation available to former presidents who have served the institution with honor and success and who have contributed to the institution in other capacities for an extended period of time. A former president who receives emeritus status shall be granted the title *President Emeritus*. The title signifies the institution's lasting respect and gratitude. Emeritus status, however, does not grant any authority or benefits such as salary, employment benefits, office space, tenure or other terms of employment.

3.3. Required Criteria for Emeritus Status: To be eligible for emeritus status, a former president must meet the following criteria:

3.3.1. The president was in good standing with the Board and with the institution at the time of resignation or retirement.

3.3.2. The president served the institution as president and in other senior administrative capacities for a total of at least ten years.

3.3.3. The president has earned tenure status at the institution.

3.3.4. The president has expressed his or her intent to effectively retire from future institutional leadership and either return to the faculty or formally retire.

3.4. Duration of Emeritus Status

3.4.1. *President Emeritus* is generally a lifetime designation. The Board, however, may withdraw emeritus status at its sole discretion.

3.4.2. A *President Emeritus* will not serve in an administrative capacity at the institution but may serve than as a faculty member. If a *President Emeritus* is subsequently appointed to an administrative position, he or she will no longer be designated as *President Emeritus*.

¹ Adopted May 18, 2018.