

Mid-Atlantic Christian University Board of Trustees Policy #16

SUBJECT: Recognizing Distinguished Alumni

DATE: October 2014

REVISED: April 2020

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: February every two years, February 2022

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: May 2015

Policy for: Mid-Atlantic Christian University

Procedure for: President and Director of Institutional Advancement

Authorized by: Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Issued by: Board of Trustees

I. Purpose

The University chooses to recognize and honor alumni of extraordinary achievement, distinguished service, or exemplary character by presenting them the award “Distinguished Alumnus” or “Distinguished Alumna” as appropriate to their accomplishments. In so doing, the University uses the occasion to make a public statement about its mission, its aspirations, and its institutional values. Alumni who have earned academic credit for studying the equivalent of one academic year (30 credit hours) at Mid-Atlantic Christian University are eligible for this award.

II. Policy

The University chooses to name distinguished alumni for reasons which can be summarized as follows:

1. To recognize superior leadership or achievement in a chosen field of endeavor or in the face of extraordinary circumstances;
2. To acknowledge a selfless spirit of service that has contributed significantly to improving the world, the Church, or the individual’s particular community;
3. To express appreciation for exceptional generosity that has advanced the vision of Mid-Atlantic Christian University to be a national leader in Christian higher education; or
4. To publicly identify and recognize worthy role models for students, faculty, alumni, and the community to emulate in their own lives.

Those chosen as distinguished alumni, although chosen for any of the reasons listed above, exemplify Christ-like characteristics of leadership and service. They have been determined to be living role models, working tirelessly for the good of others. The University uses the bestowing of such an award to demonstrate and reinforce the importance of taking an active role in serving the Kingdom of God.

The award Distinguished Alumni is the third highest honor conferred by the University.

At Mid-Atlantic Christian University, the award of distinguished alumni is most often presented in a public ceremony, such as commencement exercises or convocation, but it may be awarded at any other service deemed appropriate. Relating the experiences of distinguished alumni recipients to students and the entire Mid-Atlantic community serves as reinforcement to the University's efforts to develop in students the knowledge, skills, motivation, and religious and moral convictions that will compel them to join others in addressing critical issues facing society and the church or to devote themselves to selfless service.

III. Procedure

Distinguished alumni are named by the President and Director of Institutional Advancement upon the recommendation of the Distinguished Alumni Task Force.

1. Presentation of the candidate's name to the Distinguished Alumni Task Force may be made by any alumnus or alumna (a person who has earned one or more credits at MACU), as well as by any current faculty, staff, Trustee, or Director.
2. Early in the academic year, the Director of Institutional Advancement, along with the President of the Alumni Association, will invite nominations for distinguished alumni. The deadline for submission of all materials related to the nomination will be January 1 and July 1 each year.
3. Nominations shall be written and should include:
 - a) A biographical statement containing name, address, professional title, place of birth, educational background, employment history, and other awards, if any;
 - b) Appropriate written documentation for the nomination, including a list of primary contributions that qualify the individual for the award;
 - c) A minimum of two written references from knowledgeable persons who are familiar with the nominee's contributions.
4. By February 1 or August 1, the Director of Institutional Advancement will forward complete nomination files to the chair of the Distinguished Alumni Task Force, who will call a meeting.
5. The Distinguished Alumni Task Force shall study the candidate's credentials, and, based on the criteria listed above, make a recommendation to the Director of Institutional Advancement concerning the conferral of the award. The Director

of Institutional Advancement will present the names of recommended nominees to the President.

6. The President may
 - a) Reject the nomination, ending all action;
 - b) Endorse the nomination with appropriate comments, or
 - c) Extend the study.
7. Nominees usually are not persons actively engaged at the University in full-time, contractual, or salaried positions or currently members of University boards, councils, or committees. They may be local, national, or international.
8. Distinguished alumni shall not be awarded in absentia or posthumously except under extraordinary circumstances.
9. The University will typically name, but is not obligated to name, two distinguished alumni each semester, one each from the areas of Christian Ministry and Marketplace Ministry.

Considerations:

Those wishing to bestow said honor or charged with the responsibility of doing so should consider the following:

1. The bestowal of this award, while honoring achievement, may also recognize a candidate's potential for achievement.
2. The university should not restrict the granting of this award to one profession. Noteworthy achievements are registered in many professions.
3. Said honor may be received only once by any one person.

Task Force:

The Distinguished Alumni Task Force is comprised of representatives of the administration, faculty and staff, and alumni. The President is an ex-officio member of the committee. The Task Force is usually comprised of the Director of Institutional Advancement, and the following, appointed by the Vice President for Institutional Advancement: two members from the faculty (one from the Department of Bible and Christian Ministry and one from the Department of Marketplace Ministry), one member from the staff, and one member from the Alumni Association. A chairperson will be appointed by the Director of Institutional Advancement from among the committee members. The length of service on the task force is determined by the Director of Institutional Advancement.

The Task Force conducts its meetings as needed and makes its suggestions to the President by March 1 or September 1 for presentation at commencement, convocation, or any other

event deemed appropriate by the Director of Institutional Advancement and the President of the Alumni Association.

Because the committee's work is advisory in nature, the deliberations of the committee will remain confidential and reported only to the President.

The President and the Board of Trustees

The President receives the report of the Distinguished Alumni Task Force. The President confers with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees about the nominees. After consulting with the Executive Committee, the President, together with the Director of Institutional Advancement, decides whether to present the award to the nominees.

IV. Published: Policy Manual

V. Reason for Revision

VI. Appendices