Committee: Eight faculty members (Professor or above with strong records of teaching and research from diverse fields) elected by the Faculty Senate

Chair: Elected by committee
2020–21 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Rick Yost, Chair
- Heather Ashley
- Paul Basler
- James Collins
- Margaret Hendryx
- Berta Hernandez–Truyol
- Raymond Issa
- Mario Poceski
- Ruth Steiner
- Michael Weigold
Awards

- Honorary Degrees
- Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards
- Distinguished Achievement Awards
- Stephen C. O’Connell Distinguished Service Awards
Formulates principles for conferring honorary degrees and distinguished awards

Solicits and reviews nominations each fall and spring

- This fall only 3 nominations total: 2 HDs, 1 Distinguished Alum
  - All males
  - All white
Fall 2021
Candidates for Honorary Degree:

- James Hines
- Tom Petty
James Hines – HD of Science

- BS Mathematics 1979 Maryland; an impactful wildlife ecologist
- Computer Scientist, US Geological Survey Eastern Ecological Science Center
- Software development, biometrics, and animal population ecology
- 3 books, >200 referred papers, h-index 85, very high for a non-academic
- Close collaboration with UF Wildlife Ecology in research, and has taught courses
- Vetted by the UF Wildlife Ecology faculty
Tom Petty (posthumous) – HD of Music

- Achievements as a performer and songwriter, defense of performing artists’ rights
- Received UF’s Distinguished Achievement Award in 2006
- Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame, inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, 3 Grammy Awards
- Charitable endeavors in aiding the homeless
- Unanimous support of School of Music faculty