



**Board of Regents
Academic Affairs Committee**

AGENDA

April 27, 2018
Jody Richards Hall
Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room

Mr. John W. Ridley, Chair
Miss. Andi Dahmer

Dr. Claus Ernst
Dr. Tamela W. Smith

Action Items

~~AA-1 Approval of Department of Agriculture Name Change (p. A1)~~

AA-2 Approval of Emeritus Appointment (p. A2)

AA-3 Approval of Honorary Doctorate (p. A3)

**EMERITUS
APPOINTMENT**

REQUEST:

Approval of faculty emeritus status for Dr. John A. Hardin.

FACTS:

Listed below is a faculty member who has been recommended by tenured faculty, the department head, and the college dean to be awarded emeritus status. Professor Hardin has served the university for twenty-seven years and has a distinguished record of achievement and service.

Potter College of Arts and Letters

Dr. John A. Hardin, Professor of History, Emeritus

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

No funds requested

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding Dr. John A. Hardin emeritus status effective July 1, 2018.

MOTION:

Approval of emeritus status awarded for Dr. John A. Hardin effective July 1, 2018.

HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARDS

REQUEST:

Approval of Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts awarded to Mr. Sam Bush.

FACTS:

The University Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee reviews the credentials of candidates for honorary degrees. The Committee has recommended Mr. Sam Bush be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts at the next appropriate occasion, in view of his exemplary contributions to the University, the state, the nation, and the world.

Mr. Sam Bush is an American bluegrass fiddler and mandolin player from Bowling Green, Kentucky. His skill was recognized early; as a child, haircuts at Dye's Barber Shop on Old Morgantown Road in Bowling Green were also opportunities to demonstrate his growing mastery in the regular adult picking sessions held there. While still in his teens, he was three-time winner of the Junior Division of the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest in Weiser, Idaho, where officials initially refused to hang his portrait photo on the winners' wall, reputedly because of the length of his hair and his sporty Hilltoppers t-shirt. Before graduating from high school, Bush joined with American county music singer and fiddler Roy Acuff, launching the young musician's career. Inspired by the progressive movement in bluegrass music, he was key in the formation of two legendary Louisville bands, Poor Richard's Almanac and Bluegrass Alliance, representing a musical movement which culminated in the hugely successful and influential band New Grass Revival. The resulting "New Grass sound" was an energetic unselfconscious amalgam of traditional oldtime and bluegrass music, rock and soul, and the improvisatory spirit of jazz. Bush's distinctive driving mandolin anchored the virtuoso group from 1971 till a final breakup in 1989.

Bush has been nominated for 13 Grammys, winning 3, including Album of the Year for his participation in the blockbuster *O Brother, Where Art Thou*. He has been named mandolin player of the year four times by the International Bluegrass Music Association. In 2009, the American Music Association (AMA) presented Bush with the Lifetime Achievement for Instrumentalist Award. His work has always alluded directly and indirectly to his Kentucky roots; most recently his 2016 album *Storyman* features his composition "Bowling Green," co-written with Jon Randall Stewart, which describes growing up on a Warren County tobacco farm, with classic fiddle tunes learned in his childhood interspersed throughout the song. Now a senior and revered member of the bluegrass community, Sam Bush is currently touring the US, continuing to inspire a new generation of musicians and fans.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: No funds requested

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends the Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts awarded to Mr. Sam Bush.

MOTION: Approval to award the Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts awarded to Mr. Sam Bush.

