

Emeritus Status: Board of Trustees Resolutions

To propose emeritus status for retiring faculty or staff members, it is necessary to prepare a resolution consistent with the following guidelines to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Resolutions should be submitted for Board of Trustees action in a timely way to ensure consideration before the effective date of the resolution (retirement).

INFORMATION GATHERING

A board resolution recommending a retiring faculty or staff member for emeritus status should include these facts:

- full name and preferred name (Jonathan B. “Trey” Smith, III)
- current title, department, college, and field of specialization
- dates of employment (joined 1969, promoted 1974 and 1988, retiring 1996)
- degrees earned and where
- career path which led to the University (if relevant or desired)
- career high points (major awards, highest accomplishments, et al)
- formal emeritus title recommended and effective date

WRITING STYLE

In drafting a board resolution, it is important to remember the following:

- the speaking voice is that of the Board of Trustees, not the college, department, or institution (they are all mentioned in the text)
- resolutions and proclamations typically use the most formal styles of address (Dr., Professor, Mr., Mrs., Ms., The Honorable)
- brevity is desirable, especially since the finished resolution likely will hang in a frame (3/4 of a page or less is a good length)

FORMAT

Here are the basic building blocks:

WHEREAS,--about 4-6 of these, each containing facts about the honoree. Each statement is closed with a semicolon and the word *and*. The last *WHEREAS* statement ends with a semicolon only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT -- precedes a statement of the board’s intentions and ends with a period.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT --rarely necessary) states further action in addition to the main point of action and ends with a period.

FURTHERMORE,--allows the board to state instructions for the recording and distribution of this document and ends with a period.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Jonathan B. “Trey” Smith, III, Professor of Equine Science in the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, has expressed his intention to retire at the end of the spring semester, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith joined the University of Arkansas in 1969 as an assistant professor, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974 and to professor in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has enjoyed an impressive career in the field of equine immunology and has spent 27 years teaching and conducting research in the University setting and providing leadership and instruction to the veterinary community through public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was awarded the prestigious National Horse Head Award in 1986 for his landmark article, “Innovative Vitamin Supplements for Healthy Hooves,” and was named the National Horsemen’s Society Vet of the Year in 1987, 1989 and 1992, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is a respected colleague and a beloved teacher held in highest regard by his peers and students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board bestows upon Dr. Smith the title of **Professor Emeritus of Equine Science, effective June 1, 1996, and grants him certain rights and privileges as extended to emeritus faculty by the Fayetteville campus and the University of Arkansas System.**

FURTHERMORE, the Board directs that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and a copy shall be provided to Dr. Smith.