

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
October 24, 2016**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR RON MAY  
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2. **Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Ron May is Executive Vice President of Major Enterprise Projects at DTE Energy and chair of the School of Engineering and Computer Science Advisory Board. In his letter of nomination, Dean Louay Chamra states that May is, "[a]n OU ambassador in the true sense of the word." According to Chamra, May has devoted countless hours to the university and the School of Engineering and Computer Science."

May holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard. He also is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and Project Management professional and holds a Michigan Real Estate License.

May is a true champion of Oakland University. As Chair of the SECS Advisory Board, William Mattingly, SECS Advisory Board Vice Chair states that May "has acted as an alumnus without having attended." He is described as a tireless volunteer who through his leadership of the advisory board has played an integral role in moving the School forward. His connections in the community and industry have been key to helping SECS achieve its goals both educationally and philanthropically. An example of his contributions is his work in organizing an Oakland University Energy Sector event which resulted in programs, internships and sponsorships for the School. His efforts have helped the Dean and faculty forge strong relationships with businesses in support of the School's strategic plan. Through his guidance and support, the Advisory Board has engaged 84 new corporate partners and assisted in raising over \$250,000 in 2015. May also actively served on the President's Campaign Council. Fellow board members cite his focus on the SECS strategic plan, his sound advice and extraordinary leadership as reasons they support him for this award. He has been recognized for his engagement with the university with an Honorary Alumni Award.

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Ron May  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
October 24, 2016  
Page 2**

May also is a strong advocate for diversity. Michael Bolon, a member of the SECS Advisory Board Executive Committee states that May's "emphasis on diversity and inclusion has increased the engagement and effectiveness of the advisory board membership." May brought his focus on diversity and inclusion with him to the SECS Advisory Board. His work at DTE and in the community as a board member of the Warren Conner Development Coalition, Crossroads for Youth, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, his chairmanship of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and his work on the campaign for the United Negro College Fund have been publicly acknowledged. May has received Diversity Champion awards from DTE Energy African American Action Association, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Diversity Task Force and the Detroit Chapter of the Association of Asian Pacific Americans.

May has served on the boards of directors for numerous educational and civic organizations in addition to Oakland University and the organizations and initiatives already listed, including the Construction Industry Institute, the University of Michigan Engineering Advisory Council, Think Detroit PAL and the United Way 2-1-1. He holds professional memberships in the American Association of Cost Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Nuclear Society and the Engineering Society of Detroit. He is also a distinguished volunteer for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Detroit Chapter.

The committee was impressed by the depth and breadth of Mr. May's contributions to Oakland University, his philanthropic and volunteer efforts in the community and commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Honorary Degree Committee recommends Ron May be awarded the degree Doctor of Science Honoris Causa to recognize his significant contributions to DTE, Oakland University and Southeast Michigan.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Ron May  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
October 24, 2016  
Page 3

8. Recommendation

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Ron May.

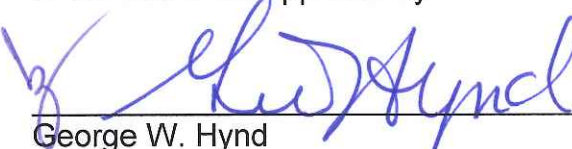
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President

on 9/25, 2016 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James P. Lentini, D.M.A.  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 9/26, 2016  
to the Board for Approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George W. Hynd  
President