



April 11, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

As you may be aware, last Friday the Oregon House passed House Bill 2823, which urges state universities to grant degrees to Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II and therefore could not complete their degrees. To quote from the Oregonian and materials provided by Peter Gilkey: "Oregon's House Education Committee unanimously approved a bill Friday that would grant honorary college degrees to certain Japanese Americans interned during World War II. House Bill 2823 applies to students who were enrolled at an Oregon college or university when they were forced into internment camps by federal executive order in 1942. It's uncertain how many former students are still alive and able to request a degree. Families may request honorary degrees on behalf of deceased relatives."

We are contacting you to ask that you serve on the "Ad Hoc University Senate Committee to Address HB 2823" at the University of Oregon. The charge to the committee will be to: (1) document the number of students whose degrees were affected by internment and their degree status at the time of internment; (2) evaluate mechanisms (including the awarding of degrees) for redressing issues raised by internment of students; (3) solicit input on appropriate actions from campus groups that guide policy and provide input on awarding of degrees, including, but not limited to: the Faculty Advisory Council, the Undergraduate Council, the Distinguished Service Award Committee, the Graduate Council (if graduate students are involved), and the Academic Requirements Committee; and (4) report on finding at the May meeting of the UO Senate, preferably with recommendations for procedures to deal with the matter. Recommendations might address issues such as which persons are granted actual degrees or honorary degrees, what methods and procedures should be followed, the dates for degrees, and so forth. Ideally, the recommendations would take the form of a motion or motions so that action could be taken at the May 9 meeting. We understand, however, that it may be difficult to bring a motion before the University Senate in time for action during the spring quarter and that this process may extend into the fall and indeed into the next year. Regardless of the precise timing, it is our hope that the committee will be expeditious in its work. Justice has been too long delayed in this matter.

As you will see from the mailing list, the individuals whom we are asking to serve on the committee and their campus roles are as follows:

Committee Members:

- Peter B. Gilkey, Committee Chair: IFS, UO Senate, Past-President of the University Senate, and University Senate Webmaster
- Heather Briston, University Archivist
- Kenneth Calhoon, Chair, Academic Requirements Committee
- Herbert R. Chereck, University Registrar
- Dave Hubin, Chair, Distinguished Service Awards Committee
- Charles Martinez, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity
- Ronald N Severson, Chair, Undergraduate Council
- STUDENT MEMBER - to be determined

Ex officio:

- Provost, University of Oregon
- President, University Senate

It is our sincere hope that you will agree to serve on this committee. The work of this committee is of tremendous importance to the integrity of our educational mission and our commitment to addressing the status of former students who, through no fault of their own, were unable to complete their degrees at the University of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Dave Frohnmayer  
President, University of Oregon



W. Andrew Marcus  
President, University Senate