Policy on Awarding a Posthumous Degree  
(as approved by Senate on November 22, 2010)

A posthumous degree may be awarded to a deceased student under the following circumstances. The student must have:

a. Died while a student, or within 12 months of the last registration;
b. Been in good academic standing of a high enough standard that eventual graduation was expected;
c. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 20 credits, completed at least 15 credits;
d. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 15 credits, completed at least 12 credits;
e. For a graduate student in a course-based Master's program, completed 75% of the course work;
f. For a graduate student in a thesis-based Master's program, completed all course work and submitted a draft of the thesis deemed satisfactory by the supervisor and one other committee member; and
g. For a graduate student in a Ph.D. programs, completed all course work, comprehensive examination (or equivalent) and thesis proposal, and submitted a complete draft of the thesis approved by the committee and an external examiner.

A student who was in an Honours or 20-credit undergraduate program at the time of death, but is not eligible for a posthumous Honours or 20 credit-degree, may be recommended for the corresponding 15 credit degree, if the criteria for that degree are met.

Procedures:

a. On receiving notice of the death of a student, the Registrar, in consultation with the department or school and the Dean(s), shall determine if the deceased student is eligible for a posthumous degree and communicates this information to the Chair of Senate, the Provost and the President.
b. Upon agreement from all the parties, the Registrar will communicate with the next of kin to confirm whether the family wishes to have a posthumous degree conferred and to discuss possible arrangements for the awarding of the degree.
c. The posthumous degree will be noted as such in the list of graduands approved by Senate in the Convocation program and on the transcript, but not on the parchment.
d. If the family wishes, a representative may cross the stage during Convocation in place of the deceased student to receive the degree parchment.