A. Background and Purpose

Dalhousie University (the “University”) may at times wish to recognize and honour the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of members of the University community. The specific purpose of this policy is to set out the principles for conferring the honorary designation of “President Emeritus” on a former President of the University, or “Chancellor Emeritus” on a former Chancellor of the University.

B. Application

This policy applies to the conferral of the honorary designations of “President Emeritus” and “Chancellor Emeritus”.

C. Policy

1. President Emeritus

i. The University may confer the title “President Emeritus” as an honorary designation to recognize and honour the outstanding contributions and long-standing service of a former President of the University in accordance with this Policy.

ii. The designation “President Emeritus” may be conferred on an individual who has served as a President of the University for a minimum of five years, and who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and distinguished leadership and service to the University during the term of office.

iii. The title “President Emeritus” shall be solely an honorary designation. It does not carry with it any entitlement to authority, rights, privileges or resources, except as may otherwise be determined by the Board of Governors (the “Board”) in its sole discretion. No remuneration or formal duties are attached to the title.

iv. The designation is among the highest honours the University can grant and it should not be within the expectation of every person leaving the office of President.
v. The designation of “President Emeritus” is for life and carries with it the responsibility to act in a manner that upholds the ethical and professional standards of the University. The designation may be revoked by two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

vi. There is no limit on the time for conferring the designation of “President Emeritus” and it may be conferred posthumously.

vii. There is no limit on the number of persons who may hold this designation.

2. Chancellor Emeritus

i. The University may confer the title “Chancellor Emeritus” as an honorary designation to recognize and honour the contributions and service of a former Chancellor of the University in accordance with this Policy.

ii. The designation “Chancellor Emeritus” may be conferred on an individual who has served as a Chancellor of the University for one full term (normally three years), and who has demonstrated exemplary service in carrying out the role during the term of office.

iii. The title “Chancellor Emeritus” shall be solely an honorary designation. It does not carry with it any entitlement to authority, rights, privileges or resources, except as may otherwise be determined by the Board in its sole discretion. No remuneration or formal duties are attached to the title.

iv. The designation of “Chancellor Emeritus” is for life and carries with it the responsibility to act in a manner that upholds the ethical and professional standards of the University. The designation may be revoked by two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

v. There is no limit on the time for conferring the designation of “Chancellor Emeritus” and it may be conferred posthumously.

vi. There is no limit on the number of persons who may hold this designation.

D. Administrative Structure

1. Authority: This Policy falls under the authority of the Board.

E. Approval Procedures

1. The designations of “President Emeritus” and “Chancellor Emeritus” are conferred by the Board, in its sole discretion, on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee (the “Committee”).

2. The Committee shall consider, as it deems reasonable and appropriate, the merits and candidacy of any retiring or resigning President or Chancellor of the University as set out in Section C.1.ii or C.2.ii above. The President or Chancellor shall not initiate or participate in any discussions of the Committee related to their own consideration for this designation.
3. In the event that the Committee recommends to the Board that conferring the honorary designation “President Emeritus” or “Chancellor Emeritus” is appropriate in the circumstances, the Chair of the Committee will convey the recommendation, on behalf of the Committee, to the Chair of the Board for consideration by the Board.

4. Any consideration by the Board of the conferral of the designation of “President Emeritus” or “Chancellor Emeritus” shall be conducted in camera and in the absence of the President or Chancellor as appropriate. If approved, the Chair of the Board will inform the President or the Chancellor in writing that the title of President Emeritus or Chancellor Emeritus has been granted.

5. Conferral of the designation will not occur until an individual has retired or resigned from the University in the case of the President, or completed their term in the case of the Chancellor, although the announcement of a decision to confer the title may, in the discretion of the Board, be made prior to the date of the retirement/resignation or the completion of the term of appointment.