

Chancellor and President Emeritus Policy

1. Purpose

This policy establishes a clear, consistent framework for conferring the honorific titles President Emeritus and Chancellor Emeritus upon successful completion of term, recognizing distinguished service while maintaining appropriate governance safeguards. The Emeritus designation is an honorific that reflects a mutual desire of the University and distinguished members of the university community to maintain an ongoing relationship that honours both parties.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the awarding of an honorific title on individuals who have served as President or Chancellor of Saint Mary's University. Recipients may style themselves 'Emeritus' or 'Emerita'.

3. Applicability

Emeritus designation is awarded by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the Governance Committee and on acceptance by a nominee, to a former President or Chancellor who meets the criteria set out in this policy.

4. Policy

4.1 Emeritus is of honorific nature and is not intended to confer rights and privileges with respect to terms and conditions of employment.

4.2 Emeritus designation is for life, and a list of individuals with Emeritus designation will be maintained by the University.

4.3 Appointment Criteria – President:

4.3.1 Subject to section 4.3.3, a former President who has completed at least two full terms (as specified in contract) may be awarded the Emeritus designation to that title following the completion of term, by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the Governance Committee based on a nomination submitted to the Governance Committee from a member of the university

community (board member, faculty or staff member), and provided the individual agrees to accept the designation.

4.3.2 The criteria to be considered by the Governance Committee with respect to a President are:

- Service on behalf of the University community
- Service in the community at large
- Exemplary leadership, particularly with respect to building the reputation of the University as an institution of higher learning
- Contributions to higher education in Canada and internationally

4.3.3 The Governance Committee may make a recommendation to award the designation to a President who is stepping down from office prior to the completion of two full terms if, in its discretion, there are exceptional circumstances that warrant the recommendation.

4.4 Appointment Criteria – Chancellor:

4.4.1 A former Chancellor who has completed at least one full term (as specified in appointment resolution) may be awarded the Emeritus designation to that title following the completion of appointment, by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the Governance Committee based on a nomination submitted to the Governance Committee from a member of the university community (board member, faculty or staff member), and provided the individual agrees to accept the designation.

4.4.2 The criteria to be considered by the Governance Committee with respect to a Chancellor are:

- Fulfilment of role of ambassador and advocate for the University with vigour and demonstrated exemplary service
- Contribution to elevating the stature of the University

4.5 Persons awarded the Emeritus designation under this Policy shall be entitled to all privileges accorded to Faculty Emeriti as shall exist from time to time.

4.6 The Board of Governors of the University may choose to withhold or to withdraw Emeritus designation if, at its absolute discretion, it determines that the individual so named does not maintain the expected standards for the designation.

5. Procedures

5.1 Nominations under this Policy are to be submitted in confidence to the University Secretary. Nominees should not be informed of their nomination. This protects the nominee and the University from embarrassment if the nomination is not recommended by the Governance Committee or approved by the Board of Governors.

5.2 Nominations must be in writing, including a strong rationale and documentation in support of the nomination. Nominations must be made no later than three years after the candidate ceased to hold office.

5.3 The Governance Committee of the Board will review nominations, ensuring that criteria have been met, and in its sole discretion determine whether a nomination will be recommended to the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors will decide whether to confer the title at an in-camera session of a meeting of the Board. Upon approval, the candidate will be informed of the award by the Chair of the Board of Governors.

Additional Approval Information

- a) **Policy Number:** 12-019
- b) **Approving Authority:** Board of Governors
- c) **Approved:** September 23, 2026
- d) **Responsible Office:** University Secretariat
- e) **Responsibility:** University Secretary
- f) **Revision Date(s):** Not applicable
- g) **Supersedes:** Not applicable
- h) **Next Required Review:** 2031