

REQUEST TO AWARD A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE TO A DECEASED STUDENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a request for an exception to statute 2.43.62.040, and award the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, with a Major in Psychology, to a deceased student, effective Winter 2022.

Applicable Code

2.43.62.020 It may be requested of the University occasionally that academic recognition be bestowed posthumously to a deceased student who did not complete degree requirements and who did not meet the prescribed criteria for an honorary degree. In such a circumstance, the University may, upon request of the family of the subject student and upon approval of the appropriate faculty, confer a degree, if the deceased student had met the requirements as set forth below.

2.43.62.040 BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS: To be eligible for these University recognitions, a deceased or critically ill student who, at the time of termination of study, was pursuing a Bachelor Degree, shall have met a minimum of 90 percent of the requirements in each published category: general education, departmental, collegiate, University.

Background

Trevor John Cameron (004712880, gr4835) was a WSU student from Detroit and St. Clair Shores, MI, who passed on November 9, 2021, at the age of 27. He transferred to Wayne State University in Fall 2018 and successfully completed 111 semester hours. Despite earning less than 120 degree credits, Mr. Cameron completed all general education requirements (100%), all college group requirements (100%), all Sociology minor requirements (100%), and all but 16 credits (five courses) of his Psychology major requirements (58%). His overall GPA was 3.52 and his major GPA was 3.64.

Mr. Cameron was in the process of completing 8 credits in Fall 2021 and had already registered for his remaining 8 credits in Winter 2022 at the time of his passing. The Department of Psychology recently became aware of Mr. Cameron's passing, and would like to recognize him for his achievements at this university.

By requiring a 90% completion threshold in general education requirements, the statute effectively limits the possibility of awarding the degree under the statute to students who have completed the vast majority of their degree requirements and have both department- and college-level support for the awarding of a degree. While Mr. Cameron has not met all requirements of statute 2.43.62.040, he worked diligently to complete his degree, met the 90% threshold in 3 out of 4 requirement categories, and was only five courses (16 credits) short of graduation.

Approvals

This request is supported by the Chair of the Department of Psychology, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost.