

honorary membership

A Statement of Policy Procedures as adopted by the Council on 26 September 1986 and amended on 27 September 1990

Formal Basis

Authority—Constitution, III.3:

"The Council shall elect members to the grades of membership for which they are deemed qualified within the requirements specified in this Article. The Council may delegate the election to no voting grades, except to the grade of Honorary Member, to such constituent body or elective or appointed officer as it may deem appropriate."

Qualifications and Conditions—Constitution, III.5:

"Honorary Members shall be persons of acknowledged preeminence in the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences, either through their own contributions to the sciences or their application or through furtherance of the advance of those sciences in some other way. They shall be exempt from all dues and assessments."

Analysis of Past Honorary Membership

Of the 55 individuals elected to Honorary Membership between its inauguration and the present, 22 are still living; and of those, 12 are U.S. scientists and 10 foreign scientists. Most of the names are readily recognizable as those of exceptionally distinguished contributors to the atmospheric and related sciences.

In order to more firmly fix its unique place in the hierarchy of recognition that the Society can bestow, we first note that Fellows should "have made outstanding contributions...during a substantial number of years." The Honorary Membership is meant to delineate and to acknowledge a rarer distinction,

comparable to or exceeding that demanded by the Society's highest awards.

It should be for accumulated distinction over a number of years rather than for a single accomplishment. It is an especially appropriate recognition for individuals whose contributions have very significantly reached in from other fields. In keeping with the Society's international scope, Honorary Membership should be awarded for high eminence irrespective of nationality or country of residence. The addition of a new name to the roster of Honorary Members should be as much an honor for the Society as it is for the individual.

Procedures

Nominations can be made by any honorary or regular member of the Society in good standing. The nominations will be in the form of a supporting letter addressed to the President of the Society, as Chairman of the Council. Curriculum vitae may be attached, and additional letters of recommendation may be sought by the Secretary of the Council.

Nominations are invited and will be solicited for discussion at the winter Council Meeting. The Executive Committee, at its subsequent interim meetings, will discuss and screen these nominations. The screening process will consist of a check on the satisfaction of minimum qualifications as stipulated in the Constitution and on the completeness of the dossier. The Executive Committee will recommend to the Council for its fall meeting, in priority order, nominees for election to the grade of Honorary Member. Written documentation on the nominees will be forwarded to the Council approximately two weeks before the election. The process is designed to ensure careful and equitable consideration of each nomination.

