




TO: Fred Latour, President of the Faculty Senate

FROM: David P. Dauwalder, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs 

COPIES: Z. Toro, J. Kim, N. Al-Masoud, J. Tully

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD B.S. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
POSTHUMOUSLY TO BRANDON DARRELL HENSEL

I recommend that Mr. Brandon Darrell Hensel be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering posthumously at or before CCSU's Spring 2021 Commencement.

Mr. Hensel tragically passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2021, as a result of an automobile accident. During Spring 2021, Mr. Hensel was in good academic standing and was enrolled in 15 credits of upper-division mechanical engineering courses for Spring 2021, having already completed 115 credits toward his degree.

Recommendations from the Department of Engineering; the department chair, Dr. Nidal Al-Masoud; and from Dean Ju Kim accompany this request.

Attachments

Fw: Posthumous degree process - Brandon Hensel 30369745

Kim, Ju H. (Engineering, Science, and Technology) <jhkim@ccsu.edu>

Thu 3/4/2021 6:50 PM

To: Dauwalder, David P. (Academic Affairs) <dauwalder@ccsu.edu>

Cc: Al-Masoud, Nidal (Engineering) <almasoudn@ccsu.edu>; Tully, John (VP Student Affairs) <Tullyj@ccsu.edu>

Dear Provost Dauwalder,

Please see email below regarding a request from the family of Mr. Brandon Hensel. I would like to recommend awarding a posthumous degree in Mechanical Engineering from CCSU to Mr. Hensel.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ju H. Kim, Dean
School of Engineering, Science and Technology

From: Al-Masoud, Nidal (Engineering) <almasoudn@ccsu.edu>

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:29 PM

To: Kim, Ju H. (Engineering, Science, and Technology) <jhkim@ccsu.edu>

Subject: RE: Posthumous degree process - Brandon Hensel 30369745

Dear Dean Kim,

The Family of Brandon Hensel has requested that their deceased son be awarded a posthumous degree in Mechanical Engineering from CCSU. By a copy of this email, the Department of Engineering is officially in support of this request.

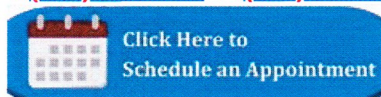
Brandon, who was a senior in the Mechanical Engineering program, was two or three courses shy of completing his degree. He was planning to take these over the summer. While the Department of Engineering is aware that Brandon technically only qualifies for a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment, we respectfully request that you approve the Posthumous Degree in Mechanical Engineering. We believe this would give the family some comfort and something to celebrate while they deal with this tragic and untimely loss of this young man.

Nidal Al-Masoud, Ph.D.

Professor & Chair, Department of Engineering, CCSU

almasoudn@ccsu.edu , deptofengineering@ccsu.edu

T:(860)832-1825 F:(860)832-1811



From: Tully, John (VP Student Affairs) <Tullyj@ccsu.edu>

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:37 PM

To: Al-Masoud, Nidal (Engineering) <almasoudn@ccsu.edu>; Kim, Ju H. (Engineering, Science, and Technology) <jhkim@ccsu.edu>; Dauwalder, David P. (Academic Affairs) <dauwalder@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Posthumous degree process - Brandon Hensel 30369745

Dear Dr. Al-Masoud:

The family of our former student, Brandon Hensel, has requested that the university pursue the process of awarding Brandon a posthumous degree. I have attached the policy. As you will see, the process begins within the student's department.

With this note, I'm asking that you and your faculty please consider initiating this process. Please let me, Dean Kim, or Provost Dauwalder know if you have any questions.

Best,
John

Dr. John Day Tully

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
(He/Him)

Please consider helping students through
our [Circle of Care](#) project.



Proposal for a Posthumous Degree Policy At CCSU

Whereas the granting of academic recognition to students who pass away before earning their degree is common practice at universities nationwide, and

Whereas CCSU has no policy to guide the granting of such recognition,

Be it resolved that CCSU adopts the following policy on the granting of posthumous academic recognition.

Posthumous Degree Policy

- Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the time of their death in the courses or other credit-bearing activities that would allow them to complete their degree are eligible for the posthumous awarding of the degree appropriate to their course of study.
- Undergraduates who do not meet the standard above but have senior standing are eligible for the awarding of a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment.
- Graduate students who do not meet the standard above but have completed 75% of the credits required to earn their degree are eligible for the awarding of a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment.
- Any student receiving either a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment must be in good academic standing at the time of their death.
- The granting of either a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment is initiated by the recommendation of the department in which the grantee is a student.
- The department's recommendation must be approved by the dean of the school in which the department is housed and, in the case of graduate students, by the Dean of Graduate Studies as well. The Provost must then approve the dean's recommendation.
- If the Provost approves the granting of a posthumous degree or Certificate of Academic Accomplishment, the decision must be approved by the Faculty Senate, which has authority over the granting of all degrees.
- Departments with deceased students who do not meet the above criteria for unusual or unanticipated reasons may recommend to the appropriate dean the granting of a posthumous degree or a Certificate of Academic Accomplishment, accompanying their recommendation with an explanation of the relevant circumstances.
- The family of the deceased student shall be offered the choice of receiving the diploma or certificate at the first commencement ceremony following the student's death, or in a private meeting with the President of the university or her/his designee.