SENATE REPORT: Senate Com on Honors and Academic Convocations for AY2017-2018.

In AY 2017-18, 6 candidates were considered (1 was denied, 5 were approved). In the end, D. Graves, C. Matthews, C. Rivera, S. Scully and S. Knapp were recommended to receive honorary degrees at The George Washington University Commencement on May 20, 2018.

Please see all the candidates considered below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee First Name</th>
<th>Nominee Last Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Nominated by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denyce</td>
<td>Graves</td>
<td>Opera singer, member of Voice Faculty, Peabody Institute, The Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>Dr. Luther W. Brady, BA '46, MD '48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris</td>
<td>Matthews</td>
<td>Political commentator, talks show host, and author</td>
<td>MSNBC</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc, President of GWU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chita</td>
<td>Rivera</td>
<td>Actress, dancer, and singer</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Dr. Luther W. Brady, BA '46, MD '48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean</td>
<td>Scully</td>
<td>Painter and printmaker</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Dr. Luther W. Brady, BA '46, MD '48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>Wofford</td>
<td>Attorney, politician, author, former President of Bryn Mawr College</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Stephen J. Trachtenberg, President Emeritus, GWU; Professor of Public Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>Knapp</td>
<td>Former, GWU President</td>
<td>Former, 16th GWU President</td>
<td>Nelson Carbonell, Jr, GWU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 4 voting members on this committee as per faculty senate records:
- Chair: Rehman, Scheherazade S., International Business and International Affairs
- Friedman, Leonard, Health Services Management and Leadership
- Ingraham, Loring J., Professional Psychology
- Plack, Margaret, Physical Therapy
- (Miriam Galson, FSEC Liaison)

Please note the votes and the voting process is only open for Senate voting members and is confidential.

The 4 member Senate Voting Committee reviews the nominations and recommends whether the nominee MEETS THE CRITERIA for an honorary degree.
at GW. This is NOT A VOTE on whether they should get the honorary degree or not, but rather if they meet the criteria (i.e. are they eligible).

Can each of the voting members please vote (YES or NO) on each candidate based on the criteria as described below:

The Senate Committee vote is tallied and resent to the Committee for further discussion or approval (depending on the vote distribution and comments). All votes are confidential. There is no restriction on the number of nominees that can be deemed to have successfully met the criteria.

Once we are done, we send that information to Michael Peller transmission to the Committee on Academic Affairs of the Board of Trustees.

**CRITERIA:**
1) What is the nature of the nominee's professional achievements? Is the nominee at the summit of his/her career? In general, "summit" has nothing to do with the age of the candidate (a scientist is generally at the summit of her career when she's in her 60's or 70's while a professional athlete is generally at the summit of his career when he's in his 20's or 30's) but with the general level of achievement.

2) Has the nominee made a contribution to the public good outside of his/her profession? This is a very broad category. Generally, the nominee must have done some sort of public service (Darrell Green, a former member of the Washington Redskins, started an organization to help underprivileged children improve their reading skills) but any sort of contribution will do (William H. Rehnquist, the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was an amateur historian who wrote several books on the Court’s history).

3) Does the nominee have a connection to GW? This is also a broad category. Any connection—from being an alumnus to giving one lecture several years ago—will do.

To be sent forward from the Senate Committee, a nominee must score highly in two of the above three categories. What this really means is that we take it for granted that everyone will score highly on professional achievement (#1) and we’d like them to score highly on public service (#2); depending on the make-up of the Senate Committee, a good GW connection (#3) often doesn’t count for much if evidence of public service (#2) is lacking.

The only people who can’t receive an honorary degree are current faculty, administrators, and trustees. Once these people become former faculty, administrators, and trustees, they become eligible (if nominated).