

REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary degree of humane letters to Graham B. Spanier at Summer Commencement 2006.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Spanier for his exceptional vision, service, and leadership to higher education in the United States.

Details on Dr. Spanier's Accomplishments:

- Dr. Spanier received the B.S. and M.S. in sociology from ISU in 1969 and 1971, respectively. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology in 1973 from Northwestern University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.
- He began his academic career as a faculty member at The Pennsylvania State University, rising to the rank of professor of sociology and associate dean of the College of Human Development. After administrative appointments at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Oregon State University, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, he returned to Penn State University as president in 1995, where he remains. He holds academic appointments as professor of human development and family studies, sociology, demography, and family and community medicine.
- Dr. Spanier's national service to higher education includes chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; chair of the Big Ten Conference Council of Presidents/Chancellors; vice-chair of the Worldwide Universities Network; chair of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, president of the National Council of Family Relations; and chair of the Board of Directors of the Christian Children's Fund. He has also led the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities and served on the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Council; Universities Research Association; and Junior Achievement. He was a founding member of the Internet2 Board.
- Dr. Spanier has more than 100 scholarly publications, including 10 books; and was the founding editor of the *Journal of Family Issues*. He is a family sociologist, demographer, and marriage and family therapist.