

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
September 11, 2023**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR GLENN ELLIS  
A Recommendation**

- 1. Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
- 2. Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Glenn Ellis, MPH, is an amazing educator in the field of health and wellness as well as a researcher whose work in health equity and ethics in medicine has been transformative. He is a Certified Health Care Ethicist (CHCE) from St. Joseph's University and received his Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Liverpool. Mr. Ellis is currently a Visiting Scholar at the National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and was both a Research Bioethics Fellow and a Narrative Ethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

Mr. Ellis has presented at scientific, academic, and health conferences across the United States, as well as in Belgium, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Ukraine to name just a few. He provides workshops as well as guest lectures. Mr. Ellis was a guest lecturer at the IV International Symposium on Bioethics in Kiev, where his abstract was published under the auspices of the esteemed European Science Foundation and in the *Journal of Philosophy and Ethics*. He has presented lectures in medical schools and symposiums on "Inclusion and Retention in Clinical Trials." He also serves on several institutional review boards and ethics committees at Mercy Health Systems, Thomas Jefferson Health Systems, and Drexel University Medicine in Philadelphia.

In addition to all of his academic accomplishments, Mr. Ellis is also the president of Strategies for Well-Being, LLC. This is a global consulting company that specializes in "health education equity, disparities, advocacy, policy and communication." His work has earned him national and international recognition. He has authored peer-reviewed journal articles as well as a weekly nationally syndicated health column, and he hosts a weekly public health program on Philadelphia's WURD radio station. Mr. Ellis has published two books, "Information is the Best Medicine: A Guide to Navigating Your Health Care" (2012) and "Which Doctor?" (2006).

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Glenn Ellis  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
September 11, 2023  
Page 2**

His work, both in academia and as a global consultant, has focused a spotlight on the protection and rights of vulnerable populations. His work in health advocacy and equity for marginalized patients, especially African Americans, in medical care and clinical research has earned him recognition from across the globe. The testimonials on his website, <https://www.glennellis.com/testimonials/>, are a clear example of the importance of his work and the value that it has for this community. As a result of his work, he was inducted as a Fellow of the National College of Physicians in May 2023.

It is our suggestion, with your approval, that Glenn Ellis be awarded a Doctor of Science *honoris causa* from the School of Health Sciences at the 2:00 PM commencement ceremony on Friday, December 15, 2023. Should you determine that a more appropriate (different) degree be awarded, or at a different ceremony, the Honorary Degree Committee supports your recommendation (without further review).

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Glenn Ellis.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Glenn Ellis  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
September 11, 2023  
Page 3

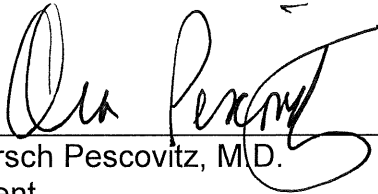
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President  
on 9/8, 2023 by



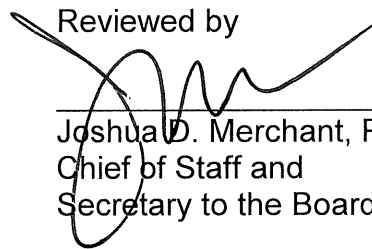
Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 9/7, 2023  
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees