

Baton Rouge, LA 70808
November 21, 2019

Dear Evelyn, Mauro & Jeff,

I would like to nominate Robert B. Ekelund, Jr. for the HES 2020 Distinguished Fellow Award. Attached please find a current copy of his Curriculum Vitae. I have requested that two other letters be sent to you on his behalf. I hope that they reach you before the imminent deadline. Based on Bob's enthusiasm for the history of economic thought and his sheer productivity over a lifetime, I can think of no more deserving candidate for this distinction.

From the moment I met Bob Ekelund as a fellow graduate-student 54 years ago, his zeal for and interest in the history of economic thought were obvious and infectious. Joined by our common interest and shared collegial status we became fast friends and frequent co-authors over the ensuing decades. I found his work ethic amazing. Bob published his first article on the history of thought while still a graduate student, and has continued to study, research and publish virtually non-stop since. He is now one year shy of his 80th birthday, and his health is starting to fail, yet he continues to research, reflect, and publish indefatigably.

The committee will see from his vitae that his interests are broad and varied, spanning more than economics; and within economics, more than one sub-field. But he has tirelessly devoted an amazing amount of effort in analyzing and illuminating the history of economic thought, often shining a light into some dark corners of the subject. Even his forays into other sub-fields, e.g., industrial organization, public choice, economics of religion, cultural economics, etc., reveal an abiding interest in the intellectual history of the subject at hand. It should not be overlooked, too, that he has "infected" scores of doctoral students with the same kind of interest and zeal for the subject that he has. At a time when those of us in the profession are struggling with declining interest in our subject, and ways to counteract it, that is no small achievement.

I do not wish to overstate the case. Ekelund's resume speaks for itself. I urge the selection committee to give his name careful consideration for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hébert', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert F. Hébert, Ph.D.

HES Past President

Auburn University Emeritus Russell Foundation Professor