

**Effective:** October 1997

## University Governance COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER COMMITTEE

**Approved:** Fall 2007  
University President, Faculty Senate

The Commencement Speaker Committee serves to assist the University President with the selection of speakers for the winter and spring commencement ceremonies.

### Membership

1. One faculty representative from each of the four academic units (Education, Humanities, Social Sciences, Science & Mathematics) and one representative from non-school faculty elected by Faculty Senate for overlapping two-year terms. No faculty member may serve more than two consecutive terms
2. Two student representatives, one of whom is the chairperson of the University Board Speakers Committee and the other selected by the Student Senate.
3. The Vice President for University Advancement, who serves as committee convener.
4. The Director of Student Programs.
5. The terms of members begin October 1 of the appropriate year.

### Functions

1. Generate a pool of potential commencement speakers for consideration by the University President.

The pool shall be broadly representative in terms of race, gender, and academic discipline, and may include other considerations in order to promote enhanced diversity. It is assumed that honorary degree recipients will, on occasion, deliver commencement addresses.

The speakers for the spring and winter commencements shall be drawn from the pool generated each fall by the committee. In the event a speaker cannot be obtained from the pool, nothing in this policy shall prevent the University administration from obtaining a commencement speaker from other avenues.

2. Receive nominations for the commencement speaker pool from any source within the University community by encouraging members of the University community to submit names of potential speakers to any member of the committee.

## **Modifications**

Modifications of this committee require agreement between the University President or his/her designee and the Faculty Senate.