

**Effective:** October 1997

**University Governance  
Committees Which Are Modified by the Faculty Senate  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER COMMITTEE**

**Approved:** updated, fall 2009  
Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee

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## **Membership**

1. The committee is composed of one representative from each of the following four academic units: Education, Humanities, Science/Math, and Social Sciences, and one member from the non-school faculty, all elected by Faculty Senate for overlapping two-year terms. No representative may serve more than two consecutive terms.
2. Two student representatives serve on the committee. One is the chairperson of the University Board Speakers Committee and one is selected by the Student Senate for a one-year term.
3. The vice president for university advancement, who shall also serve as convener of the committee, and the director of student activities shall be members of the committee.
4. The terms of office begin 1 October, and the committee shall meet at least one time per year, usually during the fall semester, but at other times at the call of the convener or a majority of the members of the committee.

## **Functions**

1. The committee shall generate a pool of potential commencement speakers for consideration by the University president.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. It is assumed that honorary degree recipients will on occasion deliver commencement addresses.
5. The commencement committee shall receive nominations for the commencement speaker pool from any source within the University community, and members of the University community are encouraged to submit names of potential speakers to any member of the committee.

#### **Modifications**

1. Modifications of the committee require agreement between the University administration and the Faculty Senate.

#### **Document History**

Minor wording change, fall 2009