



RESOLUTION  
Bill Number: RS 12B-03

**Graduation Speaker Selection Process**

**Effectively immediately upon approval by the Graduation Speaker Selection Committee**

The Graduation Speaker Selection Committee must be formed during the Spring semester each year. This committee will be comprised of 3L SBA members who are not seeking to be the graduation speaker. The committee will also include a faculty member and a member of the administration appointed by the student committee members.

3L SBA members, as defined here, are members of the 3L senate and the 3L members of the SBA Executive Board (President, Vice-President, Treasure, Secretary, ABA Representative, and Historian). 3<sup>rd</sup> Year SBA senators and executive members include those slated for spring graduation or joint degree students (JD/MBA, etc.).

In the event that there are fewer than NINE total members on the committee, the SBA President, with the two-thirds of the 3L senate's approval, shall appoint the remaining 3L positions from the graduating class so that NINE members total are on the Committee. The chair of the committee shall be the most senior 3L SBA Executive Board member of the Committee. Seniority shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, ABA Representative. If there are no executive board members appointed to the Committee, the chair will be nominated and selected by the Committee.

During the first week in March, the Committee will send out a global e-mail soliciting candidates for the graduation speech. Only graduating 3Ls are eligible to apply. Nominations will not be accepted.

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Committee for consideration:

1. A copy of the speech (electronic version is fine). Applicants must write their own speeches. Speech length is limited to 7 minutes reading time.
2. A copy of his/her resume that shall include any leadership or service in organizations, societies, clubs or associations at the law school.

### Speaker Selection Process by the Committee:

1. Review all the speeches and the resumes submitted by the applicants.
2. Have ONE meeting, “pre-selection”, to discuss the speeches and the resumes of the applicants. At this meeting, the Committee will narrow the list to three finalists based on strength of resume (specifically relating to campus involvement) and quality of speech content. After a minimum of three minutes of discussion per candidate, each Committee member will have the opportunity to vote for three candidates. The voting will be by secret ballot. The top three total vote-getters will move on to the next round.
3. If fewer than three people apply to be the graduation speaker, all three applicants will automatically advance to the next round.
4. After the “pre-selection” meeting, the Committee will hold ONE “selection” meeting for the purpose of listening to the speeches given by each of the top three applicants. Applicants must read the speeches they authored.
5. “Selection” meeting may be video-taped.
6. The “final selection” meeting will immediately follow the “selection” meeting. It is at this final meeting that the Committee will decide on a graduation speaker. Each Committee member will have one vote. The voting will be by secret ballot. The candidate with the most votes will be declared winner.
7. The Committee has full discretion in this process and all decisions are final.