

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER SELECTION POLICY:



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY

To: Alan F Harre, President
From: Renu Juneja, Associate Provost
Date: August 17, 1999

In view of recent disappointments with speakers for Commencement, the Council of Deans held an e-mail discussion in June on the appropriate process by which speakers for such an occasion should be chosen.

This is the recommendation of the Council: A committee consisting of three members of the Council of Deans and three students should be appointed to recommend the Commencement speaker to the President. The Council representatives will be appointed by the Provost. The student members will include the President and the Vice President of the Student Senate and the Chair of the Union Board.

In choosing the speaker, the Committee should pay special attention to recipients of honorary degrees. They are present at the ceremony and, in the past, honorary degree recipients have often made excellent speakers.

This format has the advantage of involving the students in an informed discussion, and helping both students and administrators achieve a common understanding of the sorts of people who have the potential to make good Commencement speakers.