



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SENIOR SPEAKER SELECTION PROCEDURES

APPROVED BY MUSG SENATE 9/18/03; VPSA APPROVAL 10/8/03

Introduction

The following procedures have been established to outline the process by which the student speaker is selected May Commencement. The student selected through this process is recommended to the University President for confirmation and final approval.

Section I – Eligibility

- A. The Senior Speaker must be a student graduating in December, May, or August who is eligible to participate in the May commencement ceremony of their graduating year and who has been a full-time undergraduate student for at least (5) semesters at Marquette and has a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- B. The Senior Speaker shall not have been on academic or disciplinary probation at any point in his/her enrollment at Marquette.
- C. No present or former member of the MUSG Executive Board or Senior Speaker Selection Committee may serve as Senior Speaker.

Section II – Selection Committee Composition

- A. The Senior Speaker Selection Committee shall be chaired by the Senior Speaker Coordinator and shall consist of students, administrators, and faculty.
- B. Student representatives shall be selected as follows:
 1. One student with senior standing shall be selected from each undergraduate college to serve on the committee.
 2. One student with junior standing and/or one student with sophomore standing may be selected to serve on the committee.
 3. No member of the committee may be serving as a volunteer or paid officer or assistant with MUSG.
 4. No member of the committee may be on academic or disciplinary probation at the time of their selection or throughout their term of membership on the committee.
 5. Members of the committee are selected by the Senior Speaker Coordinator through an application process after applications have been made available to all qualifying undergraduate students.
 6. Student appointments to the Selection Committee must be approved by the Executive Vice President.
- C. Administrator and faculty representatives shall be selected as follows:
 1. The Senior Speaker Coordinator shall select three representatives from the university administration or faculty.
 2. No two representatives may be from the same department or college.

3. It is strongly suggested that at least one of the three representatives be a member of the Jesuit community.
4. The Selection Committee shall also have a non-voting advisor, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. All meetings and deliberation of the committee must have the advisor present.

Section III – Nominations and Applications

- A. Nominations for Senior Speaker shall be solicited as follows:
 1. Nominations for Senior Speaker may come from any member of the graduating class or from faculty, administrators, or staff.
 2. The request for nominations must be available to the university community at least three weeks prior to the nomination deadline.
- B. Applications for Senior Speaker shall be solicited as follows:
 1. Any member of the graduating class who has been nominated for Senior Speaker may apply.
 2. Nominees shall be notified by electronic and standard mail and invited to complete an application.
 3. Only those nominees who submit a completed application by the application deadline may be considered for selection.

Section IV – Selection Process

- A. Prior to the application deadline, the Selection Committee shall meet to develop criteria for reviewing applications and selecting finalists.
- B. After the application deadline, the Selection Committee shall evaluate all applications from eligible candidates using the criteria established by the committee. From the pool of all eligible applicants, ten semi-finalists shall be selected.
- C. The names of all ten semi-finalists shall appear on the final ballot for the Spring Election. Students with senior standing may vote for up to three candidates. The three semi-finalists receiving the highest number of votes shall be selected as finalists.
- D. The Selection Committee shall conduct an interview with all three finalists. The interviews shall include a live presentation of the applicant's proposed speech.
- E. Following the interviews and speech presentations, the Selection Committee shall meet to select one applicant for recommendation to the University President. The committee shall forward its recommendation, along with a copy of the application and speech, to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who will forward the recommendation to the University President.

Section V – Amendment of the Senior Speaker Selection Procedures

These Senior Speaker Selection Procedures may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of the seated Senate. The amendment shall become effective after approval by the MUSG President and the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

Amended 9/6/13 – Removed December Commencement Procedures
Amended 2/14/16 – Spring Election Timeline Update