

**Spring 2015 Commencement Student Speaker Selection Pilot
Concept Proposal
10/2/2014**

The Provost's Office is recommending a pilot process for selecting commencement student speakers starting spring 2015 and possibly for all future ceremonies. The intention is to develop a process with defined selection criteria whereby eligible students can apply to represent their class during commencement ceremonies. In the two spring 2014 ceremonies, there were 23 undergraduate candidates who had earned a 4.0 GPA. Past experience indicates that, when asked, some eligible speaker candidates have declined the request to address their class; therefore, a speaker application process would both confirm a student's initiative and willingness to address the graduating class and provide an equitable process for selecting speakers from among qualified applicants. Two students awarded the honor to present the "Student Address" at the two spring ceremonies would be represented in the ceremony program book with a brief biography highlighting their accomplishments.

The proposed selection criteria honors and balances the values of academic performance, and campus impact through civic engagement, research and/or creativity. Candidates anticipating *summa cum laude* honors (greater than or equal to 3.95 cum GPA calculated at end of prior term) would be eligible to apply. Total credits earned at Stockton would also be considered. Transfer students must also meet a minimum transfer GPA criterion. Student must have earned a minimum of 64 credits at Stockton (required for Latin honors). Additionally, a faculty nomination is required.

Students meeting the minimum criteria will be invited to self-nominate or can be nominated by a Faculty member. A selection committee will review applications using the criteria listed below and may invite finalists for a brief interview. Speakers will be notified approximately 6 weeks prior to the commencement ceremony

Selection Criteria:

- Minimum 3.95 CUM GPA (*summa cum laude*), two spring 2014 ceremonies included 72 students with 3.95 GPA or higher from the 259 students with a 3.75 GPA or greater.
- Demonstrated campus impact through civic engagement, research and/or creativity
- Minimum RSC 64 credits earned and review of transfer GPA (if applicable) as posted by Admissions
- Faculty nomination written in support of a student speaker candidate
- No social probation on record

Tentative Selection Cycle Timeline:

	Spring 2015
Call for speaker applicants	Week following graduation application due date
Deadline to apply	10 business days from call date
Candidate interviews	Mid-March
Decision announced	Last week of March
Ceremony	May 9, 2015