

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU**Procedure Manual**

Title: Student Graduation Speaker
Revision Date: 11/96
Responsible Area: Student Services
Responsible Office: Vice President, Student Services/Research
Policy Reference:

To select the student graduation speaker each year, the following process will be used:

Nomination of Possible Speakers

Speakers can be self-nominated or may be nominated by instructors. Nomination forms will be available for students and instructors at the end of March or beginning of April from the Vice President, Student Services/Research.

Criteria For Nomination

The graduation speaker should be an outstanding student at the college. He/she should have a petition to graduate on file in Admissions and Records (or have graduated in the prior semester). The nominated speaker should possess two or more of the following traits:

1. Exhibit motivation and follow-through
2. Achieve academic excellence as evidences by their grades
3. Demonstrate leadership abilities
4. Participate in campus and community activities

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall consist of:

- Two faculty members (preferably with communication/speech evaluation expertise) who are selected by the Instruction Council
- Two students who are selected by the Associated Student Board
- One staff member who is selected by the Student Services Council

Selection Process

Selection Competition: The nominees will participate in a selection competition. This competition will be held sometime between mid-April and the beginning of May.

The Speech: The student selects the topic of his/her speech. The speech should be no more than five (5) minutes in length. The written speech must be turned in to the Financial Aid Office two weeks prior to the competition. Only students who submit their speeches will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Selection Criteria: The following criteria will be used to evaluate speeches:

1. **Content:** Does the speech have a clear thesis that is supported with interesting, meaningful examples and ideas?
2. **Relevance of Topic:** Does the subject (topic) relate to graduation, COS, student's life while attending COS, etc.?
3. **Delivery:** How well is the speech received by the listener? Was there sufficient eye contact? Does the speaker talk with feeling?
4. Each candidate will be evaluated on a point basis, ten (10) points being the highest, and zero (0) being the lowest. Thirty (30) total points are possible.

Notification: Participants will be sent a letter thanking them for their participation in the competition and the winner will be notified. The winning speaker will meet with the Vice President, Student Services/Research prior to the graduation to discuss the commencement exercises.