

A Resolution Calling for Increased Student Involvement in the Selection of
Commencement Speakers at Notre Dame

Drafted April 19, 1998

~~WHEREAS the University of Notre Dame is a national university with a student body from all fifty states and numerous other countries; and,~~

~~WHEREAS the University of Notre Dame is a nationally ranked university which prides itself on its national reputation for teaching and research; and,~~

~~WHEREAS the Student Body, aware of the above-two facts, desires a Commencement Speaker with a national reputation; and,~~

WHEREAS currently the decision on who will be the Commencement Speaker is made by a small number of top administrators; and,

WHEREAS this committee, although soliciting recommendations from the Class Officers, is under no obligation to seriously consider their recommendations; and,

WHEREAS the timing of this committee's solicitation of student recommendations comes at a point during the Junior Year when Class Officers are changing; and,

WHEREAS because of this, the Class Officers are unable to devote adequate attention to this issue which results in the committee being given poorly researched and reasoned candidates that they cannot seriously consider; and,

WHEREAS members of this committee have expressed a desire to more seriously consider student recommendations, should they be better researched and reasoned, and;

WHEREAS this represents a great opportunity for the Student Body to become more involved in an important event at Notre Dame; and,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Student Senate calls for increased student involvement in the selection of a Commencement Speaker by requesting that the selection committee approach the Class Officers at a more convenient time in the academic year and that the Class Officers provide a better researched and reasoned list of candidates that must be seriously considered by this committee.

Submitted by Ryan Costantini, Morrissey Senator

