



Resolution 24-13

"Valedictory Victory"

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Date Submitted:	8/30/2024
Date Considered:	
Committee:	Student Affairs
Whereas:	although not universally common, many colleges and universities in the United States, including Howard University, Washington University, and the University of Southern California, have established the tradition of recognizing a valedictorian—the highest-achieving student in the school. These valedictorians are prominently featured during their graduation ceremonies and are often invited to deliver a commencement speech alongside other distinguished speakers; and
Whereas:	the criteria for selecting a valedictorian may encompass a high Grade Point Average (GPA), significant campus involvement, volunteer work, and exceptional achievements within their field of study; and
Whereas:	graduation ceremonies are attended by current students, prospective students, and their families, who come to support their loved ones. Hearing the inspiring journey of a successful peer can serve to motivate and encourage these attendees in their own academic and personal pursuits; and
Whereas:	establishing a valedictorian position would incentivize current students to strive for this honor, thereby fostering a more serious commitment to their academic endeavors and increased participation in campus activities; and
Whereas:	the introduction of such a position at UTA could contribute to altering the perception of UTA as solely a commuter school, thereby enhancing the overall student experience; and
Be It Therefore Resolved That:	UTA should incorporate a segment within its graduation ceremonies to honor a selected student representative, conferring upon them the title of valedictorian or a similarly distinguished designation and the selected student shall be granted the opportunity to address their peers during the graduation ceremony, offering reflections on their journey at UTA.

Be It Therefore
Resolved That:

each college within UTA shall have the autonomy to select their own
valedictorian, utilizing a process based on applications or recommendations;
and