Commencement Committee’s Policies
Regarding Flags and Flag Bearers

The following flags will be used in May and December Commencement ceremonies:

Ceremonial flags of the U.S., New York State, University at Albany
Gonfalons of the 9 Schools and Colleges
Country flags (including U.S.) as outlined below:

1. Flags will include those of United Nations member states, U.S. territories, and other countries with which the U.S. has diplomatic relations. Students wishing to carry flags from countries other than these will be offered the opportunity to carry another flag representing world peace and harmony, such as the flag of the United Nations, of the African Union, and the Arab League.

2. No flag will be carried unless there is a student from that country in the graduating class.

3. All flag bearers must be in good standing with the University, as verified by the Undergraduate or Graduate Dean’s office and the Office of Conflict Resolution and Civic Responsibility.

4. Students will be invited to carry the flag of their country based first on overall GPA. Eligible students not selected to carry their home country flag will be offered the opportunity to carry the flag of another country if a student from that country either declines or fails to respond to the invitation to carry the flag by the specified date.

5. The student must have been born in or be a citizen of the country whose flag s/he is carrying, unless the student has volunteered to carry another country’s flag (see #4 above).

6. Schools and Colleges will be asked to nominate gonfalon bearers. If no nomination is received, students graduating from those Schools and Colleges will be recruited or other volunteer students among the graduating class will be used (as long as they are in good standing with the University--see #3 above).

7. Flag protocol web sites, such as http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml will be used to resolve questions about the proper display of U.S. and other flags.

8. The Commencement Committee reserves the right to make final decisions regarding which flags will be carried in a given ceremony, and by which students.