

University Commencement Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
12:15 p.m.
President's Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall

Present: Diane Zahm (chair), Janice Austin, Tanyel Turkaslan Bulbul, Jamie Cowell-Lucero, Jay Crone, Lance Jones, Billy Lin, Kelly McCann (Director of Processions), Cheryl Peterson, Chris Saunders, and Michael Stowe

Absent: Monty Abbas, Austin Compton, Deborah Dickerson, Rebecca Funk, PJ Johnston, Marcella Kelly, Scotland Leman, Steve Sheetz, and Anthony Watson

Guests: Jonathan Caldwell, Tom Gallemore, Ricky Lam, Kristina Lundquist, Darryl McCallum, Peter McCann, Christina McIntyre, Margie Murray, April Myers, Kim O'Rourke, Dennis Robarge, Dan Taylor, Pam Vickers, Laura Wedin, and Donna Wertalik

Dr. Zahm called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

Announcement of the Approval of the November Minutes

Zahm announced that the minutes of November 1, 2017, were approved by the committee electronically.

Planning for Fall Ceremonies

Zahm reported that Christina McIntyre would be serving as interim director of ushers, and that no marshal or usher names had been provided from the Colleges of Natural Resources and Environment or Science.

McCann asked if stage backdrops would be available of the new Virginia Tech logo. It was reported that backdrops would not be ready, and may not be ready for spring either.

The rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 4 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum.

University Relations (Stowe) was asked to post on the Commencement website that the Southgate/460 Interchange would be open.

Other Items

- Request from a member of the Engineering faculty.

A faculty member from electrical and computer engineering asked to be on stage as his son received his business degree. Although this was not approved, other arrangements were made so that he could be by his son before he walked off stage.

- Request to add a video to the University Commencement Ceremony at Lane Stadium.

Ricky Lam, content advisor for "Humans of Virginia Tech," provided a "Project Grad" Proposal to the membership of the Commencement Committee for consideration. The proposal was to create an engaging 90 second turn-key video to display at Lane Stadium during University Commencement (complete proposal attached.) After discussion, and with a motion from Saunders, the committee approved the project. The first draft is to be presented at the March 2018 meeting for an initial review. It was also discussed that the video should be integrated into one of the three student speakers' remarks—most likely the opening remarks of the first speaker. Saunders announced that Rex Willis would be the first student speaker at Spring 2018 Commencement. It was also suggested by O'Rourke that the final video should be made available for viewing at the meeting held on Reading Day with the student speakers. She also suggested that the video be made available to the speaker for the Alumni Association so remarks might be adjusted if necessary.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.