

University Commencement Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
12:15 p.m.
President's Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall

Present: Dan Taylor (chair), Candi Clemenz, Jay Crone, Rami Dalloul, Patrick Finn, Jackson Warley for Lance Jones, Liselle Joseph, Kim O'Rourke, Steve Sheetz, Michael Stowe, Benjamin Tracy, Diane Zahm

Absent: Janice Austin (with notice), Deborah Dickerson, Andrew Ellis, Rebecca Funk, PJ Johnston, Kelly McCann (with notice), Chris Saunders, Martha Sullivan (with notice), Pengtao Yue, Anthony Watson

Guests: Jonathan Caldwell, Nannette Gordon, Captain Vince Houston, Margie Murray, April Myers, Andrew Ward, & Laura Wedin

Dr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Announcement of Approval of October 5, 2016, minutes

Taylor announced that the minutes of the October 5, 2016, meeting will be sent out later this week for electronic approval. This will be the new process for approving minutes from now on.

Spring Ceremonies Matters

Taylor indicated that the honors procession participants were not checked by security, which will have to be done for future ceremonies. Lots of non-honors students joined the honors procession, which created a bit of confusion. Zahm indicated that she can assign an usher to walk with the honors procession to help eliminate other students from joining.

Wedin indicated that after the University ceremony concluded, lots of graduates were going up into the stands instead of going through the south end zone tunnels. Some guests were also entering the field from the stands. Captain Houston indicated that there is not a security threat for the students to go in to the stands, but guests should not enter the field. Rhino will post four staff members at the gates that access the field to prevent guests from entering the field.

A question was raised as to whether or not the clear bag policy that has been implemented at sporting events should be used for Commencement as well. It was suggested that we can recommend carrying a clear bag but not require it. Those not carrying a clear bag will be subject to the bag being searched. A question was as to if there is a courtesy check for items that are not allowed. Currently there is not a courtesy check, but the information is made available as to what is not allowed.

Planning for Fall ceremonies

Cadet Jackson Warley asked if there were any changes anticipated for the Color Guard. Dan Taylor indicated that there will not be any changes. Cadet Warley then stated that the Color Guard is good to go.

Liselle Joseph, the Graduate Student Assembly representative, surveyed the graduate students to get their thoughts on having the singing of the Alma Mater and remarks from the Alumni Association added to the Graduate School ceremony. The results indicated that the singing of the Alma Mater is not that important to graduate students, and having remarks from the Alumni Association is moderately important. The survey also addressed concerns and recommendations from the graduate students. Ms. Joseph will forward the results (attached) to the Graduate School.

Names of usher and marshal volunteers are needed from the college representatives and should be sent to Diane Zahm. Volunteers are typically faculty members but can be staff and students. Staff will have to take leave in order to volunteer.

With no other business, Zahm moved to adjourn at 12:40 p.m.