

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 4, 2001
210 Burruss Hall
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: E. Henneke, K. O'Rourke, C. Nickerson, B. Conger, M. Reifsnider, J. Beach, R. Bambach, S. Burke, B. Brown, A. Bame, H. Robertshaw, B. Klein, M. Lewis, J. Harmer

GUESTS: C. Agnew, J. Albert, S. Angle, J. Brotherton, J. Kamienski, P. White

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Henneke at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of March 14, 2001, Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously as distributed.

Planning for Spring Commencement 2001

Bill Conger, Director of Processions, made a plea to the college representatives to encourage the colleges to send the names of faculty who will serve as ushers and marshals to him or Dan Taylor as soon as possible.

Elyzabeth Holford, Interim Director of the Northern Virginia Center, has requested that the University Commencement Marshal, with mace, appear at their commencement ceremony

The question about who made the decision for the past faculty senate president to serve as the commencement marshal was raised. It was recounted that Chuck Kennedy's Task Force (1990-91) made that decision.

After much discussion, it was decided that Dr. Holford's request came too late for this year's ceremony. Someone will work with her to see if a faculty member in NOVA will be able to fill this need this year. Transporting the new mace to NOVA is not feasible considering the cost of the mace and the boxes the mace and stand are stored in. Dr. Holford asked if they could use the old mace. That is a possibility for this year but the committee thought it would be more meaningful if the Northern Virginia Center chooses its own symbol for future years. The old "bedpost" mace will be retired to the Alumni Association's museum where past maces will be displayed when the new alumni center is built.

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Chairman Henneke will respond to Dr. Holford's letter. He stated that the Commencement Committee should not be involved in their ceremony. A senior faculty member at NOVA would be appropriate to serve as the commencement marshal.

John Beach reported that the weather is questionable. The sound contract is out for rebid, but it looks good for Stage Sound to get the contract. Utility work in the stadium will be held up between the spring football game and commencement.

Chairman Henneke stated that he has not heard from Parking Services about the small lot between the coliseum and the tennis courts. He will follow-up with them.

Susan Angle said there will be a deaf student attending the undergraduate ceremony. The interpreter needs the script as soon as it is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund G. Henneke, Chair
University Commencement Committee

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 2, 2001
210 Burruss Hall
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: E. Henneke, K. O'Rourke, C. Nickerson, L. Hincker, Wes Fox for J. Allen, B. Conger, D. Taylor, M. Reifsnider, J. Beach, S. Burke, B. Brown, A. Bame, H. Robertshaw, A. Zink-Sharp, B. Klein, J. Harmer

GUESTS: C. Agnew, S. Angle, J. Brotherton, J. Kamienski, R. McCoy, S. Mouras (VT Transportation), R. Parker (BT), B. Pendergrass, L. Price, D. Snider (BT), P. White, T. Wittew (BT)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Henneke at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of April 4, 2001, Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously as distributed.

Planning for Spring Commencement 2001

Handicap access to the stadium is a problem due to construction. A lot of displaced soil. Will need to bring the paratransit vans through the student gate. Will use the East Side for people with mobility problems. There is a Biology student with multiple sclerosis who needs assistance getting on the field—the easiest way is through the tunnel—also needs an interpreter.

Susan Angle distributed material and discussed handicap access/parking for college and department ceremonies. The suggestions were made to: (1) have college representatives send information to Susan Angle to include in the packet of information the Dean of Students Office distributes to students; and, (2) change the wording in the brochure that is sent to students.

Steve Mouras of Virginia Tech Transportation indicated that everything was in place for guest parking. He had received a request to park on the grass across from the Coliseum, but absolutely no parking will be allowed in that area.

Business has requested that the VT Rescue Squad be available at their ceremony. Business will be responsible for making this arrangement.

A suggestion was made that access to a cellular phone to call 911 may be the best coverage we can have during a medical emergency. Kim O'Rourke will make sure at least one member of the stage party carries a cell phone.

Numbers for the Graduate ceremony include: 91 Ph.D. and 438 Masters.

There will not be a big flag at the south end of the field due to the scoreboard being torn down for the construction. The Color Guard needs to change their routine. The little flagpoles are still on top of the stadium.

Rehearsal will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday in the Coliseum.

The commencement speaker, Congressman Rick Boucher, will fly into the VT airport at 8:00 a.m.; John Brotherton will bring him to the Coliseum and then escort the Congressman from the field through the tunnel and back to the airport. Congressman Boucher will need to leave immediately after he speaks in order to make another speaking engagement.

Larry Hincker encouraged the college representatives to send him student news stories.

Dan Taylor indicated that the West Dugout isn't a good place for the ushers to get refreshments. He wondered if there might be a better place. After some discussion it was decided that for this year, the ushers would continue to use the West Dugout.

Chairman Henneke reminded Class President Jonathan Harmer that the class officers need to be careful of what they say. They should not say something that would offend anyone.

Martha Reifsnider announced that this would be her last commencement meeting. She is retiring in January. Chairman Henneke thanked her for her outstanding efforts over the years.

The next meeting of the Commencement Committee will be the first Wednesday in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund G. Henneke, Chair
University Commencement Committee