

April 19, 1979 ✓

MINUTES

1979 Commencement Committee



PRESENT: Robertson, Devens, Payne, Driscoll, Taper, Wischkaemper, Huffman, Strother, Forkner, Powell, Legg, Smoot, Savage, Wang, Sochinski, Cummins, Lile, Mills, Hoepner, Tucker, Haines

Chairman Robertson urged the committee to protect the previously announced dates for our meetings (every other week) before commencement. NEXT MEETING: May 3

Colleges have been assured of a small appropriation to assist them with refreshments, etc. at College ceremonies: \$300 to Arts & Sciences, \$200 to all other colleges.

Savage was asked to see if Eric Sevaried is available for an informal session Friday evening (prior to his commencement speech the next day). He will also check on any need for airport pick-up.

Friday evening possibilities include: 1) a dinner hosted by President Lavery, 2) a student-oriented informal session, 3) a "Conversation with Sevaried" presentation. A late afternoon pre-supper program would be preferable.

Commencement invitations are being prepared by the President's office.

Strother agreed to arrange for VPI Historys to be presented by Dr. Lavery at the Wine and Cheese. He will have a presentation slip printed and inserted in the books.

Devens distributed the printed "Commencement Procedures". He also stated that May 21 is the correct last day for faculty to order regalia (the date in today's Spectrum is incorrect).

A letter will go to all Deans from Provost Wilson around May 1 requesting specific names of ushers and faculty to walk in the processional. The same letter will include a list of Directors (to avoid over-lapping of names).

Devens requested Sochinski to provide tapes for the Postlude. He may need to locate last year's tapes, call Roger Heath, or make some new ones.

There will be no chorus at this year's Commencement; Dr. Scott McCoy will lead the audience in the Alma Mater and the National Anthem.

Lile needs to know the precise number of persons on the stage. He and Devens will get together, then inform Legg, giving plenty of lead time for construction and/or repairs of the platform. Currently, the estimate is around 30 persons on the stage, plus room for 100 (including instruments) for the band.

Hoepner will check to see if Ali Gallimore, Speaker of the Graduate Assembly, will be available for seating on the stage in the Coliseum in event of rain.

Huffman is checking out his rainy-day system. Burruss Hall has been reserved for the next two years. Channel 3 will carry the program from the coliseum if it rains.

Huffman needs a telephone, and Savage assured us this could be financed.

Devens, with the help of Freda Mills, provided estimates of the number of candidates for each college.

Legg introduced R. E. Powell of the Physical Plant Division who will be working with us.

Lile will check on expenses for a new "skirt" around the platform; he will clear with Savage for approved purchase.

Robertson will check with Dennis Newman (of Laboratory Support Services) to make sure they are handling sound and electricity. The cost, also, will need to be confirmed.

Freda Mills assured the group that appropriate rosters would be provided as soon as possible. A "contact person" will also be provided.

Hoepner asked the annual question: "How can we control the press on the playing field"? Green uniforms (to fade into the grass) were suggested! How about building a roped-off area, possibly to the side of the platform? Haines will check on this.

Lile insists we make prior arrangements for the press "tapping in" to our sound system (to protect our own sound).

Devens hopes the marching columns will move faster this year; we still need about ten minutes for the Processional. "Pomp and Circumstance" was approved.

In discussions of the Wine and Cheese, we were reminded that this year it will be on Thursday afternoon. Strother will arrange for printing of invitations, and get them to Robertson for addressing. We may need more this year, and Thursday afternoon means more may attend. We are not sure about the final exam schedule so Robertson will contact Payne to nail the time down in later minutes. The invitation will read "semi-formal" dress.

A room closer to the dining room for seniors to pick up their books would be helpful. (The PDR is now reserved for this)

In discussing the wish among students for getting Dr. Lavery's signature, it was generally agreed that this should not be publicly encouraged, but students who desire such would be assisted.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred C. Payne