

University Commencement Committee

Minutes, January 13, 1982



Next Meetings: February 8, 1982
March 3, 1982

Cardinal Room, Squires Cafeteria

Present: McDaniels, O. Johnson, Tozier, Powell, Osborne, M. Johnson, D. Ford,
Lane, Hunt, Waldrop, Lile, Talbutt, Thomas, Huffman

Plans for the Northern Virginia Graduate Center Commencement ceremony have been made (copy attached). President Lavery will be the speaker and all participating faculty and students will wear academic robes.

There was more discussion about hooding the doctoral candidates during the University Commencement ceremony. About 225 students probably will receive this degree and approximately 125 can be expected to attend Commencement so the question of the time required for "hooding with dignity" vs. "hooding while moving" was discussed. Waldrop indicated that undergraduates would not appreciate expanding the length of the ceremony, and the Committee expressed some negative anticipations about the students' behavior in the stands.

McDaniels asked College Representatives to explore the possibility of formal hooding being done at the college/department ceremonies as the College of Home Economics does or developing other alternatives and reporting on their findings at the meeting on February 3. In addition, O. Johnson will discuss the matter with Deans Roselle and M. Johnson.

The Sub-Committee on diplomas has not met since the December meeting but Thomas brought them three good, clear copies of the prototype the Graduate Student Assembly would like to see adopted. Keller will be consulted about the feasibility of printing the student's minor on the diploma.

The Speaker Sub-Committee is exploring the availability and cost of various people. A prioritized list of candidates probably will need to be mailed to the Committee for their quick response before the next meeting.

O. Johnson is working on physical arrangements which must be completed quite soon.

There is a major change in the time and place of the Commissioning Ceremony for 1982. It will be on Friday, June 11, at 7:15 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Auditorium.

Think sunshine for June 12, 1982! McDaniels reported that the President feels we have a responsibility to have a University ceremony regardless of the weather, so we are obligated to the old plan of using Burruss and the Coliseum. Details

will have to be worked out because this means two guest tickets must be made available about May 15 to each graduate. Both Thomas and Waldrop think students would prefer an outdoor ceremony with rain and unlimited guests to only two tickets per graduate; they pointed out that spectators appeared to be prepared to sit in the rain last year and they certainly accept it for football games.

Old and new ideas for notifying students and guests about inclement weather plans were discussed. Those adopted will be printed in the Commencement instructions this year, for the first time.

O. Johnson asked the College Representatives to make sure that ushers and all faculty participants in the ceremony come to the rehearsal this year because the inclement weather plan will be rehearsed for the first time. So far it's only existed on paper and Overton's nervous.

We seem to be reaching a serious stress point with our traditional University Commencement ceremony and the increasing number of graduates. Alternatives must be explored. New feasible ideas will be welcomed.

Enid F. Tozier, Secretary