

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 14, 2001
210 Burruss Hall
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: E. Henneke, K. O'Rourke, Wes Fox for J. Allen, B. Conger, J. Beach, J. Easterwood, A. Bame, H. Robertshaw, A. Zink-Sharp, B. Klein, M. Lewis, Rebecca Weber for E. Miller

GUESTS: C. Agnew, J. Brotherton, J. Kamienski, L. Price, P. White

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

Approval of February 7, 2001, Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously as distributed.

Planning for Spring Commencement 2001

Kim O'Rourke announced that Congressman Rick Boucher will be the keynote speaker at the Spring 2001 Commencement Ceremony. Since Congressman Boucher has another commitment that morning, the order of speakers in the program will need to be adjusted. He will need to leave the stage immediately after he speaks. A police officer will transport Congressman Boucher to the VT airport.

John Beach and Lyndell Price are watching the stadium construction very closely. With the Governor's budget cuts, there may be a problem with the amount of the appropriation for construction. The Spring football game is scheduled in late April so things will have to be ready for that.

Chairman Henneke will contact Steve Mouras about transit buses after he talks to EEO and Dean of Students offices.

Chairman Henneke announced that Executive Vice President Ridenour approved the funds for Dave McKee's Band Tour.

Bill Conger stated that he and Dan Taylor have sent out the letters requesting that faculty serve as ushers and marshals at Spring commencement. With an April 1 deadline, the attending college representatives were encouraged to support this effort to increase faculty participation.

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Julie Kamienski reported that Residential & Dining Programs has between 1600-1800 dorm rooms available for occupation in Spring. With no lodging rooms available in the surrounding area, interest in dorm rooms is high.

Rehearsal for the Graduate School ceremony will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 11, in Cassell Coliseum. The rehearsal for the University Ceremony will begin immediately after the Graduate School rehearsal in Cassell Coliseum and then move to Lane Stadium for practice with the sound system. Individuals with speaking roles are encouraged to attend the rehearsals.

Pat White, University Editor, announced that she will be leaving the Blacksburg area at the end of the summer. Her husband has accepted a position at UVA. Chairman Henneke expressed the committee's appreciation for all of her efforts on the commencement brochure, invitation, and program.

Kim O'Rourke presented a proposal from the Senior Challenge-Giving Office. They would like to present a check to President Steger during the commencement ceremony and say a few words about their fundraising efforts and encourage giving by the graduates. General discussion did not support this type of commercialization at a formal ceremony. Chairman Henneke asked for a motion from the committee to support Ms. O'Rourke's response to this group. A motion by Bill Conger stated "The University Commencement Committee does not believe that this activity is appropriate for the Commencement Ceremony." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund G. Henneke, Chair
University Commencement Committee