

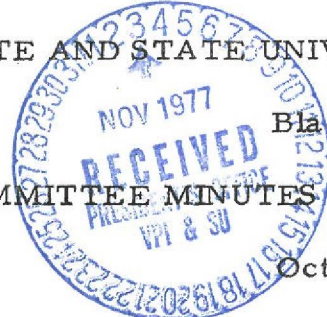
59

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Personnel Division

Blacksburg, Virginia

1978 COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES



October 25, 1977

PRESENT: Robertson, Devens, Payne, Driscoll, Osborne, Mathews, Acuff, Wischkaemper, Strother, Tozier, Hoepner, Brice, Lile, Huffman, Henderson (for Krebs), Lisa Krach (for Haley), Freeda Mills (for Keller).

THE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Commencement Committee has been scheduled for Tuesday noon, November 15 in the Cardinal Room of Squires Cafeteria. Come early to avoid the long line. Send a representative if you can't make it.

Robertson welcomed the new members and thanked everybody for coming.

Members were asked to check the roster for correct spelling and addresses. It was reaffirmed that the enlarged committee should be kept informed of all meetings and were always welcome.

NEW
ROSTER

Payne reviewed the highlights of the 1977 Commencement Exercises prior to unhampered discussion (as follows):

The fog was unanticipated but the back-up program was not needed. However, this should be reviewed next year; the rain may hit us yet.

CRITIQUE
OF LAST
YEAR

Milton Friedman, the speaker, hypnotized the crowd and pleased just about everybody at the Friday afternoon "Conversations." Something must be done about culling the invitation list for Wine and Cheese. The CEC still offers a choice location but it's not big enough for the growing crowd.

The biggest problem seems to be limited facilities for the expanding colleges. Another problem is the eternal frustrations of making a big event personal enough for the graduates and their parents.

Robertson announced that the contingency plan in event of bad weather would still be operational and thanked Huffman for his leadership here.

Robertson appointed Payne as Chairman of the Speaker's Committee and asked for volunteers. Strother and Hoepner offered to serve along with Savage, Mathews, and possibly others.

1978
SPEAKER

Brice reviewed procedures for our selecting the Commencement Speaker and reminded us that interested groups should be kept informed.

Robertson reported that Manus had reviewed the need for P.A. equipment and the University has authorized purchase of suitable additions.

NEW
P.A.

It was felt that the VPI History volumes were losing their appeal to the students attending the Wine and Cheese. Hoepner disagreed, recalling his observations that many students came around to thank Lavery and got Friedman's autograph in the book. Payne defended the invitations to the Administrators. They know how to float and recognize lonely students. Besides, even some of the brightest graduates have never met their dean.

WINE
AND
CHEESE

In discussing publicity for the "Conversations," we were reminded that most of the graduates prefer to have supper with their parents about that time.

Much discussion evolved around the problems of tight schedules and growing tension between colleges on available facilities. It was generally agreed that three programs are too much. (The University, the College and the Department).

MAIN
PROBLEM

Driscoll asked about Education rotating with Arts and Sciences for the Coliseum; Devens explained how this decision is made.

Some felt we should split the day between University exercises in the morning and, following lunch, permit Colleges to do their thing. There was opposition here, due to long distances which parents have to travel. The problem of feeding them in University dining halls is not severe.

ANOTHER
PROPOSAL

Freeda Mills reminded us that the University is returning to the old calendar pattern, so Commencement in 1978 will be Saturday, June 10. The cadet corps will hold its traditional parade the day before, and we will have more students around to provide music.

BACK TO
OLD DAYS

Wischkaemper announced that the College of Business is showing a trend toward departmental exercises without losing the advantages of a college assembly and presence of the dean. He asked for the allocation of more small locations and he'd like to get this information earlier to make definite plans.

COLLEGE
DRUTHERS

Osborne reported that Engineering is getting too big for Burruss and that some departments have had informal opportunities to meet faculty.

Wischkaemper agreed that a large room with stand-up facilities might satisfy their needs.

Engineering and Business are still in friendly tension for Burruss Hall. It was pointed out that space allocations depend on the number of graduates; that the University may be leveling off here, and we can possibly ride out the current crisis. The questions were raised "Are we utilizing spaces that we do have? What about the field house and tennis pavillion?" (Renting seats is a real headache).

Devens agreed to prepare a specific proposal (after consultation with college representatives) providing a schedule of events and locations for the Committee to shoot at.

PROPOSAL
COMING

College representatives were asked to check with their college committees and deans and get their input to Devens as soon as possible.

Payne asked for suggestions to speed up the University ceremonies; many feel they are too long. Some felt this is inevitable and that parents don't mind this once in a life time. A suggestion was made that the awarding of Ph.D.'s be transferred to College exercises; or that a separate Graduate School ceremony be added while colleges do their thing.

MOVE
Ph. D. 's
?

Strother likes it as is. Mathews implied that students had no serious objections either. Acuff reminded us this is a significant event in a parent's life; students getting their Bachelor degree are more excited about this event than those picking up a graduate diploma.

KEEP
IT

Some felt that speeches could be trimmed, including Dr. Lavery's.