

*WFL
note re:
news clipping - at
the bottom of this sheaf
of paper - about VSC's commencement -
It could happen here, too.
LKS*

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes, May 24, 1982



Meeting Cancelled: June 2, 1982
Next Meetings: June 7, 1982
June 21, 1982
Cardinal Room - Student Union

Present: McDaniels, Tozier, Siburt, Huffman, Powell, Forkner, Faiszt, Keller, Holt, S. D. Ford, Sochinski, Lane, Marvin, Osborne, Brainerd, Bowker, Thomas, M. Johnson, D. R. Ford, Wang, Haines.

Everything seems to be going so well that the group agreed we need only one more meeting before the big event. So--June 2nd meeting cancelled. Hope we aren't living in a fool's paradise.

The last Sub-Committee meeting for Senior Honors Reception indicated that all is going so well that the meeting lasted only 10 minutes. Approximately 200-210 students are expected to attend and all Committee members were urged to be present.

Brainerd told us a bit about the University of Virginia commencement which he attended last week. There were about 3500 graduates. The procession started about 10:00 a.m. from the Rotunda and lasted about 30 minutes as the candidates moved down the lawn. This gave the audience an opportunity to see each individual but took so long some people became a bit bored. No diplomas were presented at the University Commencement; students got them later at their College or Department. Honors students did not receive theirs on Commencement day because their diplomas had to be returned to the printers. The U. Va. diploma is large (about the size of a cafeteria tray?) and is rolled and tied with ribbon in the University's colors.

McDaniels reported on the Commencement Reception Allocation of funds. (Copy attached.)

Representatives from each of the Colleges reported no problems with plans. Huffman said no requests for sound systems have been received to date. He emphasized that these must be made by June 1.

A letter from Dean Talbot from the College of Veterinary Medicine which corrected the minutes of the May 10th meeting was reported. This College will present its first doctoral degrees in 1984 (not 1983) and currently has 63 students eligible for receiving the degree.

Sochinski said everything is ready for the June 11 twilight concert (6:30 p.m.) at the Duck Pond. He and Lane agreed that the trumpeters are set for Saturday a.m.

Faiszt said he has not received any request for flowers for the Senior Honors Reception or from any of the Colleges or Departments so assumes this is being taken care of elsewhere. The College of Engineering has asked for the stadium stage bouquet for its Commencement in the Coliseum. Ray Powell will see that appropriate transportation is provided for Faiszt's use in getting flowers and plants to the stadium stage.

Powell reported that due to grass conditions the men will not start putting up the stadium stage until Tuesday, June 8, and they will take it down immediately after Commencement.

Sochinski called attention to the deterioration of the sound stage, and he and Powell agreed that the one move this year will be the last it can take. They estimate it will cost about \$200 to get it in condition so it can be used in 1983.

The east side of the stadium between the 30 and 40 yard lines is accessible and open for the handicapped attending the University Commencement. Last year, they also sat in the open on the west side and this space will be available again, of course. Some College sites are still not accessible but no requests for help have been received yet.

Dr. John Wilson was unanimously chosen as the "back-up" speaker for Commencement. The Committee sincerely appreciates his willingness to accept this responsibility. We hope we do not have to call on him, but know he would be an excellent speaker.

Ushers for University Commencement will get a memo about a meeting to receive their instructions as soon as the Deans forward their names to Henry Forkner, 203 Holden Hall.

Inclement weather worries increased when Ken Haines distributed a news story on Virginia State's Commencement (see attached) and recent Blacksburg weather, especially on the last two Saturdays, was recalled. Haines said his counterpart at Va. State has told him that given the same circumstances, they would not move Commencement inside again. Apparently, negative reactions have been many and fierce. Va. Tech can anticipate many problems if it has to go indoors. Powell says the Coliseum does not have the numerical capacity to seat the undergraduates plus two guests each, even if all guests without tickets are kept out. In 1981, when the weather was very threatening, there were so many guests in the Coliseum by 8:15 a.m. there would not have been room for the undergraduates. McDaniels, Huffman, and M. Johnson will meet to develop messages for the tapes to be used on the hot line, only. Campus Security and University Information will also be informed about the location of Commencement. There will be two rehearsals (Burruss and the Coliseum) for the stage group for inclement weather, and one at the stadium for fair weather.

Music, under the direction of Sochinski, will be played during the awarding of the doctoral degrees.

The University chimes will play from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on June 12, during the crowd's arrival.

1983 already! President Lavery has received the Committee's recommendation for a speaker for 1983 and plans to follow up immediately. He also will have a meeting soon after Commencement to discuss the Committee's recommendation on the new size and format for the diploma.

A discussion followed about Chris Kraft's travel and on-campus schedule. McDaniels will consult with Lon Savage about this and the Committee expressed a desire to have a coffee or some similar event to meet and welcome Dr. Kraft to our campus. Further details will be given at the June 7th meeting.

An oral evaluation of Commencement will be held on June 21st while the events are still fresh in our minds. Tozier will present some suggestions on format for the written evaluation at the June 21st meeting.

Enid F. Tozier, Secretary

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Attachments: 2