

COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 1979

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday noon, November 13, in the Cardinal Room of Squires Cafeteria.

PRESENT: McDaniels, Johnson, Payne, Keller, McKissick, Holt, Hunt, Wischkaemper, Lile, Acuff, Powell, Sockinsk., Smoot, Strother, Legg, and Wang.

Chairman McDaniels lost his voice, so Director of Processions Johnson served as his mouthpiece. He moved with dispatch at introductions, and then called on Payne for a brief review of feedback from June, 1979's Commencement.

Payne shared the good news and the bad, most of which was old stuff to old timers. The weather was good, which increased the odds against us for next June. Some thought we were too efficient and yearn for a more relaxed event. Some liked the Gobbler "Celebration", but others were appalled by it. Some advocated more drama but did not offer suggestions for increasing the budget. Everybody liked the wine and cheese, but some felt it was too expensive. The bugs in the stadium seats were a surprise and will be eliminated. Sashes were good in the eyes of some, but a bit high-schoolish to others. The P. A. system is still a bone of contention for some. The question of frivolity of some students was mentioned (more anon). The possibilities of a President's reception, of involving the colleges more pronounceably, and the matter of awarding honorary degrees were mentioned.

Johnson read a letter from one of the members who was absent suggesting that we do something about the slow cadence of the color guard, eliminate the gobbler nonsense, and forget about sashes. The General reminded us that the Color Guard couldn't move any faster than the Marshall, and that the stage group had to move slowly, even if it made the military look less than crisp.

In discussing the one-hour duration of the ceremony, credit was given to news analyst speakers who are used to being brief. If we invite educators or politicians, or others, we would solve the problem of finishing too quickly.



HIGHLIGHTS
OF
JUNE '79

AN
ABSENTEE
SPEAKS

SHORT
TALK

The problem of frivolity of students revolved around the issue of dignity versus joy and enthusiasm. Both sides were represented well. Most seemed to think that we would like to have a dignified occasion, but that it would be counter-productive if we tried to censor student behavior. Perhaps the participants on the stage could help by setting a better example. What about the tendency of deans to "one up" each other?

TOO
MUCH
FUN ?

Johnson reminded us that we had many new members on our present committee, and we should spend some time discussing unhurriedly what our job is and what we would like to accomplish.

The first committee was appointed: Tom Lile agreed to chair a screening group on nominations of speakers; with him will be Hunt, McKissick, Tozier, and Strother. The committee hopes for an initial report at the November meeting. Meanwhile, they would like to get as much input as possible from members of the committee and from other campus groups as well.

1980
SPEAKER

Lile made a special plea for members of the committee to provide suggestions of possible speakers as well as the name of groups which should be invited to offer suggestions. Women's Network, Faculty Senate, Senior Class officers, Black Caucus, were mentioned. Also, opportunity should be provided by announcement in publications like the Spectrum and Collegiate Times.

HELP
NEEDED

At least two specific names were suggested: Juanta Kreps, former Secretary of Commerce, and Dean Laura Jane Harper, retiring Dean of Home Economics.

TWO
NAMES

The question was raised: Is it our committee's responsibility to provide guidelines or supervision for college exercises as well? Generally speaking, our committee does tend to provide a coordinating function, but we have stayed away from meddling in college sovereignty. We have some new college deans, however, who may need an orientation of what has been going on, and what we strive to accomplish.

OUR
ROLE

McDaniels asked college representatives please to review their programs and procedures with their respective deans, to seek their input, and to report their recommendations. McDaniels may also seek an audience with Provost Wilson for a possible consultation with the deans.

INPUT
NEEDED

Keller made another case for using early grades as final, thus eliminating the uncomfortable wait at the last minute for ultimate QCAs and all that this involves.

McKissick volunteered his senior class leaders for help at the Wine and Cheese.