

## Commencement Committee Report

Sept 14, 2015

This July administration, faculty and staff responsible for planning commencement ceremonies meet to discuss recent ceremonies and what might be done to make the experience better for everyone involved.

Some concerns voiced at the meeting included the length of the graduation ceremony, the number of graduates and family members leaving the ceremony early, and how to encourage increased participation by graduates and faculty.

Throughout the discussion these concerns were balanced with the logistics of putting on the Commencement ceremony. The group unanimously agreed that splitting the graduation into two parts made most sense. The Commencement Committee was asked to begin investigating the possibility of a split commencement.

As the Chair of the Commencement Committee I am asking the Faculty Senate for guidance in how to collect data on the faculty opinions regarding a split commencement. The committee would feedback regarding other ways to improve the graduation experience for all.

My initial thoughts are to have the Commencement Committee draft a 5-10 item questionnaire to be used online to collect faculty information. I will also consider collecting student opinions after consulting with student members of the Commencement Committee.

The timeline for this project as of right now is to collect information in the Fall, 2015 and with the possibility of implementation in Spring, 2016.

I look forward to feedback and suggestions from the Senate.

Thank you,

Eric Rowley, Commencement Committee Chair  
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