

Provost's Committee on Commencement

Midyear Report – December 2022

Membership:

Chair(s): Jeffrey Tang

Members: Dave Barnes (Student Union), Amy Brooks (CVPA), Tamara Senger (TGS), Molly Brown (COB), Tammy Crawford (CHBS), Fawn-Amber Montoya (Honors), Doug Hochstetler (CHBS), Erica Kann (COB), Nikki Corley (CISE), Audrey Burnett (Univ. Programs), Sarah MacDonald (PCE), Anne Neale (CSM), Melissa Rebich (COE), Laura Ryman (TGS), Anastacia Martin (Honors), Wren Stevens (CVPA), Amy Thelk (COE), Steven Whitmeyer (CSM), Lori Patton (CAL), Siân White (CAL), Michele White (Office of the Registrar).

Charge: The Provost's Committee on Commencement is charged with advising the Provost on all matters directly and indirectly related to commencement activities on campus. These include the college ceremonies and the university ceremony, as well as the planning and preparation for those events. The committee meets on an as-needed basis and works closely with the university's committee on commencement organized by University Events in the Division of Access and Enrollment Management. The committee chair serves as a liaison for Academic Affairs in interacting with other divisions on commencement-related activities.

Summary of Current Semester Activity:

- Debriefed on lessons learned from the May 2022 ceremonies
 - The May ceremonies were very successful, but there are a number of items and processes that we wanted to improve.
 - Some key changes for next May's ceremonies will be: centralized and pared-down food for faculty (not college-by-college), water for graduates, change to seating assignments (see below), and centralized script management.
 - Chair shared ideas with University Events staff, and worked with them on plans to implement changes.
- Chair worked with UE leadership (former and current) on how to strike a balance between ceremonies that are tailored to the individual colleges, but still function in a standard way to enable common planning by all other entities.
- Chair met with VP Donna Harper, Provost Coltman, AVP Jennifer Campfield, and Associate Director of UE Sarah Ciccone to promote a common understanding and agreement on various processes and timelines to be used for the May 2023 ceremonies.
- UE will now manage seating charts, though each college will send a representative to help put stickers on to name cards.

Future Work Planned: During spring 2023, the committee will be working closely with UE to prepare for the May 2022 ceremonies. Being the second time through, we anticipate a much easier process, even though there has been a fair amount of turnover among the committee members. It has also been agreed that there will be co-chairs of this committee for the next academic year, with an anticipated hand-off during summer 2023.

Appendices:

No appendices