**Commencement Committee Minutes Fall 2022 Meeting**

Meeting via ZOOM on October 28 at 2pm

ZOOM LINK: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95193220268?pwd=VzBCcjFWTmRQZWZhUTFWaFROMEtQQT09>

**Attendees:** van Oostrom; Allemand; Bridgewater-Alford; Byrd; Carodine; Fineberg; Foster; Gibson;

Goldberger; Kolb; Kroger; Lee; Lord; McBride; Reinhart; Watkins; Wilkerson; Wright

**Not Present:** Hathorn; Lindner; Phalin

**Also in Attendance:** Cynkar

Call to order at 2:04pm

**ITEM #1: Review of plan for 2022 Fall Commencements (December 16 & 17)**

* 1 doctoral ceremony; 3 Bachelor/Master/Specialist ceremonies
* Full schedule can be found here: <https://commencement.ufl.edu/fall/event-schedule/>
* Currently, there are not specific changes in place for COVID. This could change as the semester continues, depending on CDC recommendations, as well as state protocols.
* New this semester: special gift for those who attend and stay through ceremony. This is designed as an incentive to encourage both participation and remaining through the ceremony, so all graduates are ensured the same level of experience.

**ITEM #2: Approved plan for 2023 Spring Commencements (May 3-May 8)**

* Schedule and plan overview (see attachment for full schedule for university and colleges)
* This can also be found here: <https://commencement.ufl.edu/spring/event-schedule/>
* Celebrity speaker should be contracted and identified in January.

**ITEM #3: Proposed 2023 Summer Ceremony Schedule (August 11 & 12)**

Background

* Final registrations for Summer 2022: Doc: 323; Master/Bachelor 1,732

NOTE: Fire code dictates there be no more than 1100 persons on the floor with the current setup; this includes the stage party, faculty marshals, photographers, graduates, etc. We try to keep anticipated numbers at closer to 900 to ensure we do not exceed this limit, recognizing growth from one year to the next.

Feedback from summer 2022 ceremonies

Positive

* Overall grads and guests generally found the ceremonies to be smooth, appropriate; they were pleased with their experience.
* Also, overall grads and guests, regardless of degree level, liked the speaker.
* Communication was appreciated and relevant.
* Candidates’ names & faces on the stage and Jumbotron is significant. This is true for family members and grads.

Negative

* It was hot and it took too long to get inside.
* Parking and traffic were a nightmare (this was especially true this time around because construction on campus was more difficult to navigate than normal and overflow parking was harder to access). Additionally, we didn’t provide shuttles this summer because of the construction, which likely increased congestion around the building.
* 2 hours is too long for a ceremony. The length of the ceremony isn’t likely to change, so communications about the expectation of the ceremony length needs to be clearer.

Proposal for Summer 2023

Friday, August 11 at 2pm in the Stephen C. O’Connell Center

Doctoral Ceremony: PhD, EdD, AuD, OTD, DAT, DPT, DNP, DBA, PharmD, DAT, DMA

* All colleges, except Law & Dentistry (325)

Friday, August 11 at 7pm in the Stephen C. O’Connell Center

Bachelor/Master Ceremony #1

* Art ( 32)
* Design, Construction & Planning ( 37)
* Education (100)
* Health & Human Performance (163)
* H.W. College of Engineering (104)
* Journalism & Communications (183)
* Medicine ( 31)
* Nursing (158)
* Pharmacy ( 30)
* Public Health & Health Professions ( 19)
* Veterinary Medicine ( 9)

 866

Saturday, August 12 at 10am in the Stephen C. O’Connell Center

Bachelor/Master Ceremony #2

* Agricultural & Life Sciences (237)
* Liberal Arts & Sciences (345)
* Warrington College of Business (284)

 866

This schedule was approved by the committee as-is.

ACTION ITEM: Steph McBride will now present to President Fuchs for final approval.

UPDATE: President Fuchs approved this schedule late-day 10/28/2022

Note: This process may change by the next committee meeting for the fall schedule with the incoming President.

**ITEM #4: WOOT Policy Update**

Provost approved minor updates to the WOOT protocol, which removed the “of 2020-2021” from the two spots that identified the COVID pandemic. This would keep the protocol modern and accurate without changing the intention behind the statement.

The protocol document can be found online on the committee page here:

<https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//8///Policies//WOOT%20Policy%20Updated%20Spring%202022.pdf>

Adjourn: 2:38pm