



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44555

March 4, 1980

MEMORANDUM

To : Gail E. Hedrick, Chairperson
Academic Events Committee

From: Dr. Leon Rand 
Acting Academic Vice President

Your questions about policies on graduation, as I read them, center on the difference between the time the requirements for the degree are completed and the time that the degree is conferred.

The conferral of the degree is the responsibility of the President, and is addressed in Article 1, Section 2, paragraph 8 of the "Policies of the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University." This paragraph reads:

The President shall preside at all Commencements and other public academic occasions. He shall sign all diplomas and certificates that bear the University seal, and shall confer all degrees authorized to be granted by the Board of Trustees.

The conferral of the degrees is limited to the Commencement exercises, and it is the date of those exercises that appears on the diploma. A copy of a letter that President Coffelt wrote to a student who raised questions some time ago is appended for your information, and that response obviously reflects the Board policy.

For those students who need to show that all requirements for the particular degree have been met, a letter certifying such may be requested from the Records Office. This letter also would indicate when the requirements were completed. Ordinarily, the diploma itself is not sought by an employer as evidence of the completed degree.

If the members of the Academic Events Committee feel that the letter with the information, as described above, is inadequate for the needs of the graduates, please let me hear your recommendations.

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By the way, the possibility of holding an additional Commencement at the end of the Fall Quarter has been discussed, but it did not gain favor. As you know, a number of institutions go the other way and limit graduations to the single Commencement exercise in June.

Hope this answers your Committee's questions.

blj

Enclosure

cc: Dean Scriven
Miss Brownlee