



Youngstown State University / Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0001

TO: ACADEMIC EVENTS COMMITTEE : NANCY ANDREW, FPA  
REBECCA BARNHOUSE, A & S  
JANET MARIE BOEHM, HHS  
JOYCE A. FEIST-WILLIS, ED  
JOAN DIGIULIO, HHS  
ANTHONY MESSURI, E & T  
CAROLINE OLTMANNS, FPA  
HELEN M. SAVAGE, WCBA  
JOSEPH EDWARDS, ADMIN  
GORDON E. MAPLEY, ADMIN  
JOE MULTARI, STUDENT  
JILL SCHULICK, STUDENT

FROM: A. MESSURI, SECRETARY

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 1996

AGENDA: 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 1996

2. ELECT A SECRETARY FOR COMMITTEE

3. DISCUSS RESULTS OF SURVEY OF FACULTY OPINIONS ON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 1996, 4:00 PM, KILCAWLEY BRESNAHAN III

MEMBERS PRESENT: N. ANDREW, J. DIGIULIO, A. MESSURI, C. OLTMANNS, G. MAPLEY, J. SCHULICK.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY J. DIGIULIO

2. COMMITTEE AGREED TO A ROTATING ASSIGNMENT OF SECRETARY DUTIES AMONG THE MEMBERS.  
A. MESSURI VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AS SECRETARY FOR THIS MEETING.

3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED SURVEY OF FACULTY OPINIONS REGARDING COMMENCEMENT.  
IT WAS NOTED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT THE SURVEY DATA SHOWS THE MAJORITY OF FACULTY  
SUPPORT THE MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRESENT CEREMONY. G. MAPLEY DISTRIBUTED COPIES  
OF SOLAR SYSTEM SURVEY RESULTS OF STUDENTS (COPIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS ENCLOSED). THE  
COMMITTEE DECIDED TO REVIEW THESE RESULTS AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS, WITH THEIR  
WIDE VARIETY OF OPINIONS AND SUGGESTIONS, IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING, TO BE  
SCHEDULED IN WINTER QUARTER.

4. PLEASE RESPOND WITH YOUR AVAILABLE TIMES FOR WINTER QUARTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

# Results of Student Survey

1. Please select your status.

- a. Faculty 15  $O = 35 ?$
- b. Student 1196
- c. Administrator 2  $E = 35 ?$

2. Currently, graduation ceremonies are held at the end of Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters. Should this schedule remain, should a Fall ceremony be added, or should the number of ceremonies be reduced?

- a. Remain the same 393  $O = 7$
- b. Add Fall ceremony 734
- c. Delete one ceremony 88  $I = 1$

3. Currently, all graduates have their names read and cross the stage during graduation. In future ceremonies, graduates should

- a. Cross the stage and have names read 1010  $O = 1$
- b. Have names read only 149  $I = 1$
- c. Cross stage only 29

4. Currently, all graduates are honored at a single ceremony. Should ceremonies

- a. Remain the same 676  $I = 1$
- b. Be separated for undergraduates and graduates 212
- c. Be separated by colleges 303

5. Assuming that the current policy of having a single ceremony continues, what time of day should this ceremony occur?

- a. Remain in the morning (10 a.m.) 778  $O = 1$
- b. Afternoon 395  $O = 1$
- $I = 1$

6. The current order for the procession on stage is all graduate students follow by all undergraduate students. In the future, the order should

- a. Remain the same 607
- b. Be all undergraduate and then all graduate 66
- c. Be by college, all undergraduate students followed by all graduate students 176
- d. Be by college, all graduate students followed by 308

$I = 1$





November 18, 1996

Youngstown State University / Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0001

TO: Members of Events Committee

FROM: Gordon Mapley *Gordon*

SUBJECT: ***Faculty Survey***

Nancy Andrew has already sent you a copy of the memo below. However, you did not receive a copy of the tables that I sent to her. You may wish to review these tables prior to our meeting on Wednesday.

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Copy of Memo to Nancy Andrew

I apologize that I missed this year's first meeting of Events Committee. At the end of last year we conducted a survey of faculty opinions regarding commencement. Attached is a copy of the survey results. Looking at the numerical data, it appears that for all items but one there is not strong support for change.

While 37.4% of the 178 faculty responding to the question on number of ceremonies said we should maintain status quo, 38.5 suggested that we should eliminate one of the ceremonies.  
20% suggested we add a Fall ceremony.

Roughly two thirds of the faculty prefer hooding both the doctoral and masters candidates, while one third would hood only the doctoral candidates.

Two thirds of the faculty believe we should continue to read names of all graduates and have each graduate cross the stage. In fact, the personalizing of the ceremony and the music played at the ceremony were seen as the two greatest strengths of the ceremony (see notes below on written comments).

Two thirds of the faculty thought we should maintain the procedure of a single ceremony for all graduates, rather than having separate ceremonies by college or by degree level.

Nearly two thirds of the faculty preferred the current order of procession of awarding degrees (i.e., doctoral, masters, baccalaureate/associate).

) Over two thirds of the faculty preferred black robes for the graduates over red and white robes.

Virtually all faculty (93.6) preferred a morning ceremony over an afternoon ceremony.

Many faculty responded to the open ended questions. Over 50 faculty noted that the most positive factor regarding the ceremony was either the personalization created by reading names and having students cross the stage or the excellent music provided by Dana.

On the negative side, 17 faculty noted the length of commencement. 13 faculty commented on the reading of graduates' names (took too much time, timing of reading did not match timing of walking across the stage).

Regarding suggestions for improvement, there was a wide variety of ideas, but no common ideas that were shared by several respondents.

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\*The Academic Events Committee is examining the graduation ceremony. We appreciate your input.

Sample  
Survey

Faculty  Student \_\_\_\_\_ Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Currently, graduation ceremonies are held at the end of Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters. Should this schedule remain, should a Fall ceremony be added, or should the number of ceremonies be reduced?  
Remain the same  Add Fall ceremony  Delete one ceremony
- 2) Currently, all graduates have their names read and cross the stage during graduation. In future ceremonies, graduates should  
Cross the stage and have names read  Have names read only  Cross stage only
- 3) Currently, all graduates are honored at a single ceremony. Should ceremonies  
Remain the same  Be separated for undergraduates and graduates  Be separated by colleges
- 4) Assuming that the current policy of having a single ceremony continues, what time of day should this ceremony occur?  
Remain in the morning (10 a.m.)  Afternoon
- 5) The current order for the procession on stage is all graduate students followed by all undergraduate students. In the future, the order should  
Remain the same  Be all undergraduate and then all graduate   
Be by college, all graduate students followed by all undergraduate students   
Be by college, all undergraduate students followed by all graduate students
- 6) Currently, all master's degree graduates are hooded during the graduation ceremony. With the addition of doctoral graduates, we should  
Hood doctoral graduates only  Hood doctoral and masters graduates
- 7) Currently, YSU, along with a majority of U.S. colleges, requires all graduates to wear black robes. A number of schools use other colored robes (school colors). The robes should  
Remain black  Use school colors (red and white)
- 8) If you have attended a YSU commencement, what is the most positive feature of the current ceremony?

What is the least positive?

- 9) Describe any positive experiences you have had at other graduation ceremonies that you feel would improve the YSU ceremony.

Name Optional (in case more information is needed about your response to item #9)

After completing form, please fold it in half, staple, and return via campus mail by May 1, 1996.

RECEIVED  
MAY - 2 1996  
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

# Frequencies

## Statistics

	N	
	Valid	Missing
Number of Ceremonies	178	9
Hooding	181	6
Names Read	173	14
Single ceremony	183	4
Order for procession	173	14
Robe color	169	18
Time of day	184	3

## Number of Ceremonies

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Remain the same	70	37.4	39.3	39.3
	Add Fall ceremony	36	19.3	20.2	59.6
	Delete one ceremony	72	38.5	40.4	100.0
	Total	178	95.2	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	9	4.8		
	Total	9	4.8		
Total		187	100.0		

## Hooding

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hood doctoral only	60	32.1	33.1	33.1
	Hood doctoral & masters	121	64.7	66.9	100.0
	Total	181	96.8	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	6	3.2		
	Total	6	3.2		
Total		187	100.0		

**Names Read**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Cross stage w/ names read	123	65.8	71.1	71.1
	Names read only	31	16.6	17.9	89.0
	cross only	19	10.2	11.0	100.0
	Total	173	92.5	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	14	7.5		
	Total	14	7.5		
Total		187	100.0		

**Single ceremony**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Keep single ceremony	124	66.3	67.8	67.8
	Grad and UG separate	21	11.2	11.5	79.2
	Separate for each college	38	20.3	20.8	100.0
	Total	183	97.9	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	4	2.1		
	Total	4	2.1		
Total		187	100.0		



Order for procession

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Remain the same	114	61.0	65.9	65.9
	Do U-Grads first	16	8.6	9.2	75.1
	By college - G, UG	28	15.0	16.2	91.3
	By college - UG, G	15	8.0	8.7	100.0
	Total	173	92.5	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	14	7.5		
	Total	14	7.5		
Total		187	100.0		

Robe color

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Remain black	128	68.4	75.7	75.7
	School Colors	41	21.9	24.3	100.0
	Total	169	90.4	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	18	9.6		
	Total	18	9.6		
Total		187	100.0		

Time of day

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AM Ceremony	175	93.6	95.1	95.1
	PM Ceremony	9	4.8	4.9	100.0
	Total	184	98.4	100.0	
Missing	System Missing	3	1.6		
	Total	3	1.6		
Total		187	100.0		

Most Positive	Least Positive	Other
Excellent Music	Introducing board of trustees individually. Awarding doctorate to people who didn't earn it.	
Reading & recognizing each graduate individually.	When reading names & student walks across the stage, the timing is off - students name read is not the one walking across the stage.	
Time schedule & the flow of organized events from processional to recessional.	People do not show respect during invocation, singing of the National Anthem, Alma Mater, and closing prayer.	An area for nursery children ( A cry room). Having handicap accessible seating designated.
Ceremony is well orchestrated & dignified.	Students who decorate hats.	
Recognition of graduates by reading their names.		
Relative dispatch with which the ceremony proceeds.	Heat	
	The dreary speakers.	
The musical interlude.	The preliminary remarks before the official address by the guest speaker.	Walking across the stage and receiving one's real diploma from the president's hand. This could be done if divided into separate ceremonies for each college.
It brings happy and grateful families on campus.	Readers of names who can't pronounce names or who are off in their timing.	The graduate's name should be read as he/she appears on stage.
Students receive their diploma at their respective reception.	Ceremony is way too long. The names should not be read individually.	
The fact that the Board of Trustees attends.	Too long.	
Music	Introduction of Trustees & reading what already appears in program.	
Recessional	Tedious length	
A good commencement address & individual faculty contact at college gathering which follows.	Reading of names & walk across stage takes way too long.	Could have students stand grouped by major for recognition.
	The graduate's name should be read as he is approaching his Dean to receive his diploma. Currently the names are read faster than the diploma dispersement.	

The processional, The music.	Often it is the speaker.	The caliber of the speaker.
The personal nature of receiving diploma - Allowing families to cheer.	The commencement speaker - This is usually not helpful to all of the graduates.	Photographs taken of each graduate with the Dean, receiving their diploma.
The parents of the graduates.	Showing 2 year degrees on equal status with bachelors, masters, etc.	
Students morale/pride which is acknowledged by having them walk across the stage.	Length, slow pace, frequency (2/yr is enough)	One large ceremony where only doctoral & MD students names are read, others are recognized in blocks of subject & masters or undergrads; smaller, more intimate.
The orchestra, The enthusiasm of the students, The speakers.	The length & boredom during the name reading.	Have the orchestra play while the names are being read. Have the faculty more accessible to the students.
Visibility, Image, Accomplishments, Competition.	Length of commencement.	
Each student is personally honored.	Lack of invocation.	
Well organized.	Too long.	
Music	Time to award diplomas.	
Recognition given to students.	Guest speakers with no understanding of the connection to higher education.	
Marching of students, faculty, administration.	Performance of band group.	Students earning a 4.00 GPA should receive some kind of University medal. Official photographer should be able to take the students picture if they want.
Some of the speakers.	The amount of time it takes to have all of the students names read and cross the stage.	
Music, Some of the speakers.	Too long - Everyone talks, Attention span.	Have the ceremony outside on nice days.
	Reading the names would be reasonable at the college level, but not at the University level.	
The music	Names being read and crossing the stage takes too much time for all the graduating students.	Have a short ceremony at the University level and a more individualized ceremony at the college level.
Seeing students with whom I have studied and worked with graduate.	Speeches are often off the mark or too business-oriented.	

The band playing.	Speech and announcing students.	
The band, The commencement speakers.	The carnival atmosphere brought on by the overlong ceremony and the spectacle of shopping parents as their child's name is read	
Crossing the stage and having names read.	Speakers	School flag, Speaker that motivates.
Reading each name, Hooding MA candidates.	The Big-Band sound.	
Music	Beeghly still smells and looks like a gym.	
The joy of occasion.	Some speakers. Need recognition of Honors Degree Program grads & BSMD grads & University scholars.	Bring in great names for speakers, not locals.
Music	Length	
Provides recognition of the accomplishments.	Time spent by faculty.	
Short commencement speeches, keeping the Academic regalia tradition, Music.		The graduates with summa, magna & cum laude and the faculty are able to meet with the members of the Board of Trustees, the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs & the Commencement speaker after the ceremonies.
Marching in and out.	Length	
Family members recognized.	Too much music in the middle of the ceremony. Non-Enforcement of the dress code. Absence of Dean's at commencement.	Only faculty chairs & deans required to attend commencement and faculty need not be in processional.
Recognition of all degree recipients, Individual (college) reception afterward.		
Music	Heat. Long wait while students go across stage.	
Pageantry, honoring of graduates.	The length of time spent awarding degrees. Quality of commencement address.	There should be one primary graduation a year (spring) with a smaller ceremony (perhaps in separate colleges) for those who must take their degrees mid-year.
Orchestra		Nice lunch or reception provided by University in a central location.
Music	Reading names.	The old way (before name reading) seemed to be better.

Speaker	Naming all graduates plus crossing the stage.	
Interaction with parents, speakers, and friends of graduates.	Cramped and uncomfortable seating for faculty.	The old ceremonies were short and less unruly.
A YSU graduate as a speaker. Individual Acknowledgment	Names could be read more quickly.	
Pace/Organization/Professional Attitude		
Procession on stage and name reading.	Some speakers.	
Band and Speakers	Repetition by Deans as they ask the President to confer degrees on their students. Long-winded speakers.	
Distinguished speakers whose talks are short.	Extended speeches.	
Live music.	Length	
Short commencement speeches. Individual student recognition.		Present diplomas & recognize individual students by college in separate ceremony.
Well organized.	Length	
Smiling faces.	Length	Line going in where students applaud faculty and a line going out where faculty applaud students.
Music	Speakers message	
Music, Good speakers		Traditions - preliminary to graduation - chance for fundraising, Alumni gathering.
Music. Individual names/recognition.	Talks are often weak.	College level services following main event where recognition of students achievements are made, faculty are available to meet families and have pictures taken. Diplomas are given there.
Recognition of students who have earned honors.	How many students elect not to attend.	
Every student personally recognized.	Introducing trustees and mid-ceremony band song waste time. Bring graduates in from 4 doors to minimize time.	Central reception following ceremony. Each college could have own refreshment table and all could easily mingle.
Sense of family.	Mispronunciation of foreign names (irritates family members).	Attract speakers of national stature.
Quite colorful; enjoyable.	Length. Waiting for all the students to have names read and cross the stage.	

The reading of students names.	The music melody in the middle - it is a waste of time.	
Brief musical selection.	Reading all the names. Please go back to the old way.	
The enthusiasm of the audience.	The prayer.	
Short speech.	Too long with name reading.	
Runs on time & smoothly. Lining up in halls of Beeghly - excellent procedure. University orchestra.	Rude manners of audience. Ceremony is not given the dignity that it deserves.	
Hooding of graduates.	The noise level and disrespect to others. Reading all of the names	
Upbeat, celebration like atmosphere. Limited speech of keynote speaker.	The endless procession of students across the stage - students should be separated by college for this part.	
The separate naming of all graduates with honors.	Having associate degree students go through the procedure at the same time.	Have a student make an address. I.e. Student Body President or an Academic competition winner (essay)
Music.	Parents and kids running around in the bleachers.	
Orchestra.	Lack of entertainment to break up speeches.	A dance performance at undergraduate ceremonies.
Announcing the graduates names and have them cross the stage.	The congestion of trying to exit while all the parents are trying to get to the graduates. Rope off a pathway.	Informal departmental, not college, get together after the general ceremonies.
Musical interludes.	Uncomfortable seating.	
Seeing each student cross the stage and receive their degree.	The prayer is inappropriate.	
Joy and Excitement of graduates and their families.	Prayer.	
Sequencing of the ceremony itself - flows well.	Confusion after the ceremony - it seems to take too long to go to area to get diploma.	Making sure you see the graduates of your department - it means a lot to them.
Recognition of graduating students - each one.	Exceeding two hours.	
Everything is excellent.	Reluctance of the faculty to attend the ceremonies.	At the reception in the respective colleges more faculty should talk to the parents and the students.
The music.	Reading of names - but you have to do it.	

Student's proud family members.	Long waits for engineers when Arts & Sciences and Education names are read.	I like the idea of shared address and speakers and music followed by separate stages for each college and simultaneously/staggered announcing of names.
Procession and conferring of degrees.	The speakers. (Too many white rich guys, mostly very boring)	
	Fiascos in placing hoods. Lock of coordination between reading of names and the person getting attention on stage.	
	Talking in lobbies during ceremony is distracting, use more marshals (if necessary) to keep respectful atmosphere.	A large video screen behind platform shows more clearly what is happening, helps maintain interest of spectators also.
Reading of names, shaking their hands & meeting families, handing their diplomas to them in Cushwa.	Uncomfortable seating.	
	Time to read names greatly detracts from whole ceremony.	Go back to college level diploma awards.
Recognizing each student by name.	Reading names. It's important. Need to find a way to shorten this part of ceremony.	
Nice ambiance. The music.	Too many names are read. (Too long)	
The ritual itself - complete with administration & faculty. The music. Conferral of honorary degree.		What about moving the Spring and Summer ceremony outside to the football field? Receptions by the college for its grads & families after grad formal ceremony.
		Have students await name calling only a few steps from the hand-shake: this eliminates pauses between students.
Speaker given a short amount of time, get long enough to get a message across.	Length of musical selection(s) during ceremony.	
Speakers who limit their address to 10 min. Opportunity to recognize academic achievement.	Crowds that care only for their own family member and talk or walk out during the rest of the ceremony.	
In Beeghly where "all" have a good view of the stage.	Rowdy, Students decorations of caps, etc.	
It is loosening up and becoming more festive.	The setting in a gymnasium.	Presentation of class gifts to the University.
Dignity, Well prepared, Orderliness.	People in the audience talking.	
The joy of the students and their families. The dignified tone, atmosphere. The music.	The uncomfortable seating.	

The most important is to honor the students - with names read and crossing the stage.	Speakers are generally not memorable. Keep speeches short.	Four lines entering the gym rather than two.
Recognition students receive when called by name. Hooding.	Time - lose the audience after a period of time.	
The recognition the students receive when having their names read and walking across the stage.	Boring speakers.	
Formality and is well-planned.	No diplomas are given.	Omit the individual receptions and diplomas afterwards.
Organized, reasonable length of time, formal but not boring. Music is always nice.	Chairs for faculty too close together. Lack of formality of distribution of diploma.	Breakfast buffet or luncheon with professors at the respective college.
The celebration by graduates and their families of the achievement of an important milestone. Music selections.	They last too long, but once or twice a year is not very burdensome.	
Honoring the student bodies accomplishments.	Having speakers talk about state of economy and opportunities and/or lack thereof for new graduates.	Conferring degree by groups and acknowledging only honors and outstanding achievements.



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I = 1

all undergraduate students

\*0

\*

\*- 7. Currently, all master's degree graduates are hooded during the graduate ceremony. With the addition of doctoral graduates, we should

\* a. Hood doctoral graduates only 296

C = 5

\* b. Hood doctoral and masters graduates 824

D = 2

\*0

E = 3

\*

H = 1

\*- 8. Currently, YSU, along with a majority of U.S. colleges, requires all graduates to wear black robes. A number of schools use other colored robes (school colors). The robes should

F = 1

\* a. Remain black 627

\* b. Use school colors (red and white) 515

END

O = 2

E = 1

H = 1

I = 3