

TO: Academic Events Committee  
FROM: Rebecca Barnhouse  
RE: Minutes of Meeting of January 15, 1997  
DATE: January 15, 1997

Members present: Rebecca Barnhouse, Joan DiGiulio, Anthony Messuri, Caroline Oltmanns, Helen Savage, Joe Multari, Jill Schulick.

The meeting was called to order by Joan DiGiulio. We discussed the Faculty Survey and the Student Survey. The faculty, according to Gordon Mapely, were strongly in favor of one thing, but we don't know what it is. Faculty concerns included:

- a crying room for children
- relevance of speaker
- hooding. Could training be provided so faculty look like they know what they're doing?
- marshalls. We need more marshalls to shepherd talkers in the lobby and to direct people.
- screen projecting images of students' faces as they receive diplomas. Timing would need to be considered so that the ceremony wouldn't be slowed.
- entrance of students. Students could enter from 4 directions, not 2, to shorten ceremony.
- gown color. Faculty believe gowns should be black.

Students concerns included:

- fall ceremony. Because students are strongly in favor of having a fall ceremony, we believe the administration should consider this issue.
- crossing stage and having names read. Students are in favor of continuing to do this.
- gown colors. Students are divided on whether gowns should be black or red and white.

It was noted that some student comments reflect that those students had not attended commencement ceremonies. Some comments of a personal nature should be deleted from the record.

A short discussion of faculty gown rental followed; the question is whether the university should pay for or discount gown rental for faculty.

Honors Convocation will be the next subject the committee will take up. To that end, committee members are asked to query students and faculty about Honors Convocation to aid us in knowing what problems need to be addressed.

Anthony Messuri noted that the minutes of our meetings need to go to Bege Bowers at the end of the year.

The next meeting will be early in March. We will try to have Rick Bevely as a guest.