

**Academic Events Committee Report
Academic Year 1996-97**

The main task of the Academic Events Committee was data analyses from the survey of faculty and student opinions regarding commencement.

One hundred eighty-seven faculty members participated in the study. The majority of faculty supported the major characteristics of the present ceremony.

One thousand one hundred and ninety-six students participated in the study. Students were strongly in favor of adding a fall ceremony and were divided on whether gowns should be black or school colors.

Specific findings were:

Number of Ceremonies

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Remain the Same	39.3%	32.3%
Add Fall Ceremony	20.3%	60.4%
Delete One Ceremony	40.4%	7.3%

Hooding

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Hood Doctoral Only	33.1%	26.4%
Hood Doctoral and Masters	66.9%	73.6%

Names Read

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Cross Stage with Names Read	71.1%	85%
Names Read Only	17.9%	12.5%
Cross Only	11.0%	2.5%

Single Ceremony

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Keep Single Ceremony	67.8%	56.7%
Graduate and Undergraduate Separate	11.4%	17.8%
Separate for Each College	20.8%	25.5%

Order for Procession

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Remain the Same	65.9%	52.5%
Do Undergraduates First	9.2%	5.7%
By College, Graduates then Undergraduates	16.2%	15.2%
By College, Undergraduates then Graduates	8.7%	26.6%

Robe Color

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
Remain Black	75.7%	55%
School Colors	24.3%	45%

Time of Day

	<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Students</i>
A.M. Ceremony	95.1%	66.3%
P.M. Ceremony	4.9%	33.7%

Additional concerns raised by faculty were: the relevance of the speaker; training for hooding; an increase in the number of marshals; screen projecting images of students' faces as they receive diplomas; and entrance of students from four directions.

The committee met with R. Bevly, Events Coordinator University Relations, to apprise him of the survey results. Suggestions under consideration are: a larger number of marshals and adding a projection screen behind the trustee platform.

During the next academic year, the Academic Events Committee will conduct a survey on possible changes to the honors ceremony.