

Commencement Advisory Committee – spring 2022 meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. via Teams

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Committee overview
 - a. Provide feedback and perspectives on Commencement-related decisions, and assist with communicating information out to different units and constituency groups
 - b. Intention to meet once per semester; possible additional meetings as needed if major changes occur
3. May 2022 Commencement schedule (all at Banterra Center except School of Law)
 - a. Friday, May 6 at 1 p.m. School of Law (Shryock Auditorium)
 - b. Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m. College of Health and Human Sciences
 - c. Saturday, May 7 at 1:30 p.m. College of Arts and Media, College of Business and Analytics, College of Liberal Arts
 - d. Saturday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m. College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences; College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics; School of Education; and School of Medicine
4. Other Commencement weekend events
 - a. Class Ring ceremony Friday 4 p.m. Saluki Alumni Plaza
 - b. Extended Campus welcome and tours Friday 5 p.m. Saluki Alumni Plaza
 - c. Academic Excellence (undergraduates only) Friday at 5 & 7:15 p.m. Student Center Ballrooms
 - d. Reception for Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Award recipients Friday at 6 p.m. Student Center Old Main Room
 - e. Reception (formerly Forever SIU – to be renamed) Student Center first floor
 - i. 6-8:30 p.m.
 - ii. Opportunities for other areas to be involved – if your unit or group would like to host a table, or a private reception in one of the Student Center river rooms, please email Gena to discuss options
 - f. If you have other events from your unit/area that you would like included on the Commencement website, email events@siu.edu with information. We're happy to link to other pages or provide information, especially about events that are open to large portions of the graduating students
5. Commencement ceremony components
 - a. Processional – Masters, doctoral, faculty, and platform; to save time and minimize chaos, undergraduates will begin the ceremony seated on the floor
 - b. Faculty involvement <https://commencement.siu.edu/facultyinfo/index.php>
 - i. Faculty section or serving as marshals
 - c. Student marshals (or another student recognition)

- i. Group advised that we keep this recognition and build it up into more of an honor
 - ii. Possibly include a brief statement of why the student was selected, in addition to their name and academic information, on the special student marshal reader card
 - d. Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Awards
 - i. Honorary Degree recipients offered opportunity to speak briefly at ceremony
 - ii. <https://news.siu.edu/2021/12/120221-SIU-Board-of-Trustees-approve-honorary-degrees,-distinguished-service-awards.html>
 - iii. Richard Hunt, Dr. Cho-Yee To both confirmed; Bob Odenkirk has not yet accepted his honorary degree at a Commencement, and we will continue to try to get him to campus at some point
 - e. Posthumous degrees
 - f. Suggestions:
 - i. Communicate more information about the ceremony itself to graduates and faculty members (what they will need to do, order of ceremony, anticipated length, etc.) Will help all feel better prepared, less anxious, and (for faculty) perhaps more willing to be involved
- 6. **Volunteers** <https://commencement.siu.edu/volunteer.php>
- 7. Suggestions or ideas from other Commencements
 - a. Everyone seems to appreciate big name speakers; they make the event more memorable
 - b. Consider bringing back August Commencement; for Graduate School in particular, there are more August graduates than December
 - c. Play “Who Let the Dawgs Out?” at the end – add some big memorable excitement
- 8. COVID adaptations
 - a. Smaller ceremonies
 - b. Will comply with state, local, and university guidelines at the time
- 9. Next meeting: October 2022 (unless major changes)