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## **COMMENCEMENT PROCESSES – NOW AND WHAT'S TO COME: UPDATED**

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Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Programs

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Board of Trustees University Affairs Committee

AGGIES DO



*Commencement*

### **Current Practice**

- Fall and Spring commencement ceremonies are held at the Greensboro Coliseum with processional beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Each ceremony includes:
  - › Processional of faculty, followed by all graduates, followed by the platform guests
  - › Invocation
  - › Singing of “Lift Every Voice and Sing”
  - › Welcome and greetings from the Chancellor, followed by greetings from the Board of Governors (spring only: presentation of Teacher of the Year award), Board of Trustees, and Senior Class President
  - › Choral selection
  - › Introduction of the speaker followed by their remarks

AGGIES DO

## Current Practice (*continued*)

- Each ceremony includes (cont.):
  - › Special recognition of any honorary degree(s), alumni excellence award
  - › Senior class gift presentation (spring only)
  - › Presentation of commissioned officers graduates
  - › Recognition of honor students
  - › Presentation of doctoral candidates: individual candidates announced, hooded on stage by advisor(s), photo taken)
  - › Presentation of masters students followed by undergraduate students (individual names announced)
  - › Conferring of degrees
  - › All graduates recite the alumni oath
  - › Singing of alma mater
  - › Benediction followed by the recessional

## Current Practice (*continued*)

- Fall commencement ceremonies historically have lasted until approximately 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Spring commencement ceremonies historically have lasted until approximately 12:45 – 1:30 p.m.
  - › The time increase is due to there being more graduates in the spring than fall, additional special recognitions (teacher of the year and alumni excellence), the special presentation (senior class gift)

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 1

- Main ceremony at Greensboro Coliseum starting at 8:30 to include:
  - » Welcomes and greetings,
  - » Commencement speaker,
  - » Special recognitions,
  - » Conferring of degrees, and
  - » Alumni oath
- College ceremonies at venues on campus starting at 1:00 p.m. ending around 6:30 p.m. given seating constraints

New College	College Code	Number of Graduates	Location Option A				Location Option B			
			Guests (6 per Graduate)	Total	Location	Time	Guests (4 per Graduate)	Total	Location	Time
College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	AH	274	1644	1918	Corbett	1 p.m.	1096	1370	Corbett	1 p.m.
College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences	CA	132	792	924	Moore	1 p.m.	528	660	Harrison	1 p.m.
College of Business & Economics	CB	130	780	910	Moore	3 p.m.	520	650	Harrison	3 p.m.
College of Education	EC	124	744	868	Harrison	1 p.m.	496	620	Harrison	5 p.m.
College of Engineering	EN	246	1476	1722	Corbett	1 p.m.	984	1230	Moore	1 p.m.
College of Health & Human Sciences	HS	290	1740	2030	Corbett	3 p.m.	1160	1450	Corbett	3 p.m.
Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering	NA	4	24	28	Procter	1 p.m.	16	20	Procter	1 p.m.
College of Science & Technology	ST	227	1362	1589	Moore	5 p.m.	908	1135	Moore	3 p.m.

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 1

#### Pros

- Main ceremony dramatically shorter
- Builds ties to the college

#### Cons

- Logistics on campus would be difficult to manage (even if the main event is in the stadium – will add more cost)
- Students will be limited to number of guest allowed to watch them to walk across the stage in college ceremony
- Students unable to shake Chancellor's hand for picture
- Concern of branding being recreated at all college ceremony venues

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 2

- Two main ceremonies at Greensboro Coliseum one at 8:30 a.m., and the other at 1:30 p.m. Three hours for each ceremony.
- In order to evenly distribute graduates, four (4) Colleges would have their ceremony at 8:30 a.m., and the other four (4) would have their ceremony at 1:30 p.m.
- Divide current platform party into two. College Dean attends when respective college is graduating. Some members of platform party would be at both, with lunch provide between ceremonies.

	College Code	Number of Graduates	Number of Undergraduate	Number of Masters	Number of Doctoral	Faculty
<b>New College</b>						
<b>Morning</b>						
College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	AH	274	270	4	0	79
College of Business & Economics	CB	130	119	11	0	63
College of Education	EC	126	26	91	9	36
College of Science & Technology	ST	227	156	65	6	93
		757	571	171	15	271
<b>Afternoon</b>						
College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences	CA	125	100	25	0	44
College of Engineering	EN	253	194	46	13	78
College of Health & Human Sciences	HS	290	243	47	0	46
Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering	NA	4	0	3	1	4
		672	537	121	14	172

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 2

#### Pros

- For students and guests, the ceremony would be shorter
- Allows for current order of ceremony to continue

#### Cons

- Staff working commencement have longer hours
- Additional costs for the coliseum
- Part of platform party has longer days

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 3

- Graduate College Ceremony in will be held in Corbett Gym or Greensboro Coliseum, with similar staging for hooding of Ph.D. candidates, and walking across stage for Masters' students on Friday evening/ Saturday afternoon. Platform party would be small with only the Chancellor, Provost, Dean(s), Speaker, and GSAC President.
- Main ceremony at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday with Ph.D./Masters' students being recognized by standing upon acknowledgment. There will be a new entrance and seating pattern, and reduced parts of the commencement program by 1 ½ hours.

## Revamping Graduation

### Option 3

#### Pros

- Main ceremony would be shorter
- Allows for abbreviated version of the current order of ceremony to continue
- Branding is consistent
- Students shake the hand of the Chancellor
- No limit on number of guest
- Masters/PhDs have their own ceremony

#### Cons

- Masters/PhDs do not walk across the stage at the main ceremony, and may have smaller attendance
- Additional costs for decorating Corbett
- Additional staff time for The Graduate College ceremony

## Revamping Commencement

### *Recommendation and Next Steps*

- Reviewed each of the options with the Cabinet and Deans. The recommendation is to do option three (3) with main commencement event being Saturday morning with a time span of 2 ½ to 3 hours and the Graduate College ceremony occurring Saturday afternoon with time span of 1 ½ to 2 hours. Both will be at the Greensboro Coliseum with faculty attending ceremony more related to their program and Graduate students having option to attend or not attend the main ceremony.
- Next steps will be the logistics for a small working group to create the program and logistics for The Graduate College ceremony and determine where to abbreviate the programming for main ceremony.

# Questions

