

Standing Committee Annual Report**Name of Committee or Council:**

Commencement Committee

Chair

Carol Clark

Meeting Dates in Current Year:

11/24/13 and 3/20/14

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

The Commencement Committee planned and executed the August 2013 Commencement Ceremony, December 2013 Commencement Ceremonies (2), and May 2014 Commencement Ceremonies (2).

Notable this year was the change in starting time for the morning ceremony beginning in May 2014 from 10:00am to 9:00am to allow for more time between the two ceremonies to prepare for the second ceremony. A subgroup of the Commencement Committee met with additional representatives from Faculty Senate to assess the existing situation, identify alternatives to the existing situation, and prepare a recommendation. The recommendation to move the starting time of the morning ceremony was then presented to SGA, Faculty Senate, and other university entities for input before the final decision was made.

Moving forward, the Commencement Committee will continue to assess the capacity of the Dunn Center to accommodate all graduates and guests for the various ceremonies. If the number of graduates continue to increase, it is highly likely that the capacity of the Dunn Center will be exceeded within the next year or so. At that time, it will be necessary to look at possibilities such as adding additional ceremonies, requiring tickets for admission, or other alternatives.

The Commencement Committee is composed of representatives from the various entities on campus that are involved in planning or participating in the Commencement Ceremonies. Unless the faculty members on the committee are using their service on the committee for their RTP process, it may not be necessary for this group to be a standing committee.