

6-30-16 RECOMMENDATIONS (DISCUSSION AGENDA)

OWG 28: Ceremonies:

(reviewed and supported by Danette Saylor not supported by Elizabeth Perkins):

- 1. Recommends faculty participation by college for each ceremony. Faculty must seek approval of the Provost to be excused from participating in the ceremony:**

To ensure there is a significant number of faculty representation for each ceremony.

DISCUSSION – Faculty often only miss the ceremony in the case of an emergency. Often, it is difficult to get in touch with the Provost on the day of. I would recommend excusing faculty on approval from the chair and dean.

Additionally, is it necessary for all faculty from the institution to attend? This is not the model used at many institutions. Though significant representation is certainly important, it does not seem necessary to require all faculty to attend all ceremonies, particularly if space is an issue. Most faculty want to be present to support their students and will attend. Could the recommendation be revised to require faculty to attend at least one ceremony per year as scheduled by their chair or dean?

- 2. Recommends keeping Albany State University’s tradition of requiring graduates to submit a written request to the Office of Academic Affairs for review and approval for the student to graduate in absentia:**

To ensure there is a significant number of graduates for each ceremony.

DISCUSSION – Requiring students to provide notice to the Office of Academic Affairs does not ensure significant numbers of graduates; it may provide a significant number of participants, but the two are not one in the same. Currently at DSC, students are able to note whether or not they intend to participate in graduation ceremonies on their graduation application. The decision should be their own. A separate appeal request that must be approved seems unnecessary and significantly disadvantages students who live at a distance or are fully online. Also, what would be considered a good “excuse”? What happens if it is not approved? Finally, is there an issue with the number of students attending graduation?

- 3. Recommends that the Deans of the various colleges disburse honor cords to graduates. The Office of the Registrar will provide the Deans with the lists:**

Honor cords are very important to the students and is a way to recognize the students during graduation. Each college should be responsible for disbursing such cords to their students.

DISCUSSION – Are these the honors cords that are received for receiving cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude honors? Are these cords purchased by the colleges? Is this not a part of an honors ceremony?

4. Recommends that a maximum of two stoles and two cords per graduate:

Limiting the amount of stoles and cords will assist with keeping the graduation attire consistent and less cluttered.

DISCUSSION – If a student earned them, why not let them wear them? Won't this hurt participation in honors societies? I think a more appropriate recommendation would be to limit stoles and honors cords to only those recognized by the university.

5. Recommends continuing ASU's tradition of hosting the Honors Day Convocation in March with only ceremony:

It is recommended to host the Honors Day Convocation in March, preferably before Spring break; thereby, ensuring this major event does not interfere with faculty and staff preparing for Spring Commencement. It is also recommended that only one ceremony is held and all scholarships awarded by the University and the Foundation are presented at the ceremony.

DISCUSSION: DSC has two separate ceremonies – one for honors and one for scholarships. We removed scholarships from the ceremony to allow for more focus on student awards. The major faculty/staff awards are also given at this event. Will the new convocation focus on scholarships, honors, or both, and will the event be able to accommodate all of the awards presented? I don't necessarily deny the recommendation, but I would like further clarification.

6. Recommends alternate hosting the Honors Day Convocation on both campuses:

To ensure all students are recognized for their achievements completed on both campuses, it is recommended the Honors Day Convocation Ceremony is held on both campuses; alternating the location yearly.

DISCUSSION: In practice, I think this is a wonderful recommendation. However, clarification will need to be given regarding the nature of the ceremony and whether or not guests will be able to attend. It will be important to ensure that there is ample seating. As DSC's current ceremony exists, the theatre is nearly always filled to capacity, and that does not include any scholarships or honors for baccalaureate-degree students. I approve the recommendation in its nature and intent, but careful thought will need to be given to the purpose of the ceremony to know where it could be held.

7. Recommends that the Honors Day program is scheduled during the day in addition to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs suspending classes during the time the program is held:

To ensure faculty and students are given the opportunity to attend the program.

DO NOT APPROVE: While this certainly gives opportunities to a traditional population of students, it does not provide opportunities for students who are non-traditional and may work during the day or potentially our online student population. Of course, no date will work for all students and faculty, but a day-time ceremony certainly advantages one group of students over another. Additionally, suspending classes will require a review of engaged minutes to ensure that courses are meeting according to federal guidelines. While this time can certainly be built in to the calendar, it can also be avoided.

OWG 28: Ceremonies:

(reviewed and not supported by Danette Saylor note from Elizabeth Perkins):

Recommends hosting the Health Science/Nursing Penning, Education Penning and Commissioning Ceremonies on separate dates prior to commencement:

To ensure the commencement ceremony is completed within a reasonable amount of time.

DS: NOT SUPPORT: the military commissioning should remain a part of the commencement ceremony. Students being commissioned as officers in our Armed Services deserve that recognition from the university community and the extended community. If the program is done at a separate time there would not be the community participation and attendance that these students are due. I recommend developing other strategies to shorten the length of the commencement program (e.g., cut out announcing each student's major(s), only announcing the name and honors designation; decrease musical selections from two to one; shorten the biographies of each commissioned officer that is read).

EP: APPROVED – though conversations could certainly be had to hold these ceremonies on the same day or at least the day before commencement. Also, it is a “pinning” ceremony and not a “penning” one.

OWG 76: Counseling Services:

(reviewed and supported by Danette Saylor and Rocco Cappello):

RETURNED BY CIC June 2, 2016

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:

2. Recommends changing the name from Student Disability Services to Office of Access. (name change would be Counseling, Wellness and Student Access or (Accessibility)):

Currently at ASU and DSC the name is Student Disability Services. Best Practices and new trends indicated and suggest that Office of Access better services the student disability population.

REVISED RECOMMENDATION:

Recommends changing the name from Counseling and Student Disability Services to Student Counseling and Psychological Services:

Currently at ASU, Counseling and Student Disability Services is one department. The recommendation appears to be to separate the two areas, thus the name change for Counseling.

[OWG 77: Disability Services:](#)
[\(reviewed and supported by Danette Saylor and Rocco Cappello\):](#)

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Currently at ASU and DSC the name is Student Disability Services. Best Practices and new trends indicated and suggest that Office of Access better services the student disability population.

REVISED RECOMMENDATION:

Recommends changing the name from Student Disability Services to Office of Student Disability and Access:

The name change would indicate what services are being offered and in keeping with Best Practices and new trends.