

# FACULTY SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE 3

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## **RESOLUTION**

The Faculty Senate recommends a change to university regulations that will permit students that are within 5 hours of completing 120 hours of graduation requirements, who otherwise meet all university and major requirements for graduation and have previously filed an Intent to Graduate form for May, and have received the approval of relevant Department Chair and will complete requisite hours during the following summer term, to walk at the May graduation ceremony. This recommended change to be effective May 2010.

**RECOMMEND – Take this as information at April 2009 Meeting and vote on it at August 2009 Senate Meeting.**

## **PREVIOUS SENATE ACTION**

November 2008: Discussed similar motion and approved resolution.

January 2009: Reconsidered resolution. Registrar spoke to Faculty Senate and reported that this would have impacted 80 students for Graduation 2008 at a cost of 184 hours of preparing packets for consideration by Academic Degrees Committee plus \$2000 direct costs. Senate then deferred matter to subcommittee 3.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Pro

- Strengthens curriculum rigor by providing an avenue to participate in graduation ceremony without last minute manipulation of coursework.
- Generates good will of students affected by permitting student to graduate with classmates.
- May help future donations toward University Advancement funds (good will).
- Since CNU has ceased December graduation ceremony, most August & December graduates do not return for May ceremony (our loss of a positive tie for the student to the school).
- Facilitates a 4-year graduation timeline.
- Supports the philosophy of "Student's First."

## Con

-Changes tradition of the university. This change also may change verbiage of the graduation ceremony (President currently confers degrees after asking students to stand).

-Additional cost and time (Registrar, IT, Department Chair).

-May be seen as a weakening of standard of rigor. Some would say it also weakens the purity of a degree ceremony.

-Potentially a longer graduation ceremony.

## POLICY OF OTHER PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN VIRGINIA

George Mason University-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours completed in summer term.

James Madison University – Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours completed in summer term.

Longwood University-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed.

Old Dominion University-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours will be completed in summer term.

Mary Washington University-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed.

Radford University-Can participate in graduation of hours will be completed in summer term (up to 18 hours). Also have December graduation.

Virginia Tech-Varies. Decision to allow student to participate in graduation ceremony is made by individual Dean in various colleges. Some permit this, others do not.

University of Virginia-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed.

College of William and Mary-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours will be completed in summer term and student has filed for graduation for August (with no ceremony other than May).

## POLICY OF OTHER VIRGINIA SCHOOLS

Hampden-Sydney College-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours will be completed in May Term. **College has students stand in two groups...those that have completed all requirements and those that will complete in May Term.**

Regent University-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. Two course limit and must be registered to take courses in summer term.

Washington and Lee University-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. Only have one graduation ceremony each year.

## POLICY OF OUT OF STATE SCHOOLS

Bucknell University, PA-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. **Non-graduates identified in program with asterisk.**

Methodist College, NC-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. The college has two ceremonies each year.

Bradley University, IL-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. Six credit limit, may complete hours at another school.

Gettysburg College, PA-Cannot participate in graduation ceremony if hours not complete. However, receiving many complaints and ill will from parents and students about this policy and currently contemplating a policy change. Requested copy of our research once completed.

John Smith's College, NY-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed. "We want happy alumni!"

Plymouth State University, MA-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed.

University of Pittsburgh, PA-Can participate in graduation ceremony if hours not completed

St. Norbert College, WI-Can participate in graduation ceremony of hours not complete. Student must petition, no specified hour limit.