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University Commencement Committee

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Minutes
University Commencement Committee
January 11, 2012

The University Commencement Committee met on January 11, 2012 in 248 Rike Hall. The following members were present: Eric Rowley (COSM), Ron Helms (CEHS), Brandy Zapata (Student Government), Nicholas Warrington (Student Government) and Joan Lumpkin (RSCOB). Dan Krane, Faculty President, also attended. Jacob Dorn (COLA) had a prior commitment. Cristina Redko (BSOM) and Cory Snyder (Student Government) were also absent.

The committee first reviewed the Commencement Committee Procedures document regarding updates needed for the semester transition. Dates needed to be changed for Honorary Degree proposal submissions and also commencement months. The new dates will take effect beginning in Fall of 2012. It was decided the Request to Present an Honorary Degree nomination should be due the 4th Monday of November. For those request approved to move forward, the final nomination including all nomination materials will be due the 4th Monday in January. These dates apply to both the Spring and Fall nominations for the corresponding calendar year. The updated document will be submitted to Faculty Senate for approval.

Based on the Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Degrees, the committee then reviewed two letters of inquiry for nominations of honorary degrees for the 2012 commencements. Ron Helms made a motion that both candidates be accepted for nomination. The committee was unanimous in agreement to accept both nominations. Joan Lumpkin, Chair, will notify the authors of the letters what remains to be submitted to complete their nomination by March 1, 2012. After that, the committee will meet again to review the completed nominations for Honorary Degree. The committee will decide on what recommendations to make to President David Hopkins at that meeting.

Dan Krane, Faculty President, suggested the committee research other universities in Ohio to see their commencement and honorary degrees procedures. Areas of interest include how to get faculty more involved in commencement and how honorary degree nomination are generated. Dan is attending a meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council on January 13, 2012 and will ask for input in this area.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 11:30-12:30 in 248 Rike.