

Convocation Committee Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2018

Present:

Joanne Sokolowski, Manager of Convocation & Alumni Relations;
Nicholas Owen, Convocation Assistant, OC Cabinet;
Karen McQuade Smith, VP Campus Communities Alumni, Forensic Science;
Erik Bak, LEC Cabinet;
Matilda Fenech, CC Cabinet;
Louise Campbell, K.O., Staff;
Alicia Halhed, TCSA, CC Cabinet;
Erin Davidson, Graduate Studies;
Jason Fenno, TGSA;
Jean Luyben, Faculty, Library.

Meeting Minutes:

Overview of Convocation

We report to CASSC because of the fee paid by students. We will discuss some things today, but we will be talking about the budget and other feedback in the new year. This committee only pertains to the Peterborough ceremonies, however, Durham & Peterborough ceremonies are paid out of the same budget.

There is only one convocation ceremony each year in June. All grads from fall/winter/summer semesters graduate in the following June ceremony.

Feel free to apply to graduate as soon as possible - even an entire semester early. On the application to graduate, your 'graduation group' determines which specific ceremony you will be attending.

March 30 is the deadline this year to be in the yearbook and April 30 is the deadline to be in the composite. Book with Miranda Studios.

Students also get to 'dance off the stage' with a song voted on by the students.

You can email convocation@trentu.ca with any questions any time of the year.

Convocation Day

Arrive 90 minutes before your ceremony is scheduled to begin. You will receive a reader card - this is where you can phonetically write your name for the name reader. Then, you will pickup your gown and hood.

We will be attempting student marshalling in the student centre for the first time this year. (Marshalling is getting the students lined up in the correct order for the procession)

Not all ceremonies will have an honorary degree recipient.

There will be a chancellor installation this year during the very last ceremony.

We invited alumni who graduated in 1967 back to convocation on Trent's 50th anniversary with great success and we will continue inviting older alumni who graduated about 50 years ago

back to convocation. VIPs such as Tom Symons (First president of Trent) have also been attending.

Rain Plan - In the event of inclement weather, we will be in the gym with a guest limit of 4 people per graduate.

Changes for this year

- Gowning and marshalling in Student Centre for the first time
- VIP gowning may be in Bata instead of the Student Centre where it was last year
- 1 additional ceremony, bringing the total to 10 ceremonies
- New chancellor installation - Tapscott will still be the chancellor shaking hands for all ceremonies this year

Discussion

We are looking to do something more ceremonial while the students are walking across the stage. We were thinking something like tapping them with the condolence cane, but it's very fragile.

Alumni Scarf: This is generally reserved for the colleges, and it may not be the best idea to wear a scarf on a hot sunny day in a dark gown.

Trent Medallion: Like a coin, it could be given to the students by the chancellor as they walk across the stage, would have the year on it. It's small and would be easy to carry. Would also last a long time as a souvenir.

Water Bottle Toast at the end of the ceremony

Notes regarding the draft schedule:

- Nursing does a pinning ceremony after their convocation ceremony, there may be some scheduling conflict with this.
- Nursing is also becoming a very large group and may need to be split in the future
- Should the Masters/PhD grads be in the Chancellor Installation ceremony?

Post-Convocation Reception

Can we have signage directing people to each of their programs so they can meet up after the ceremony for pictures etc? Yes, we can. We tried to this year but the signs never were put up.

MScFS Hoods - do we know what they will look like?

Not yet - we will find out. We are also working on graduate diploma hoods too.

Graduate Programs with August end dates - can we have a smaller ceremony for these students in August? Most of them are working by the time the following June ceremony happens.

No, at least not on the scale of a regular convocation ceremony. You could do a very small function in a lecture hall like Wenjack but it would not have all the things a regular convocation ceremony would have.

Trent may move to a gown service company like Harcourts who will wash, store, and transport our gowns for a small fee. And as Trent grows, they will be able to make new gowns for us and rent those to us for a higher fee. This is an alternative to purchasing new gowns. We would still own the gowns we give to them. We are still awaiting concrete proposals from Harcourts and one other company.