

Date: February 20, 2013

To: Ed Jernigan, Faculty President

From: Brian Cooper, Chair, FAPSC

Re: Motion to revise the Commencement Faculty Attendance policy

This year, the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee was charged to review several academic policies for "relevance, accuracy, and gaps." On November 30, 2012, FAPSC moved that we adopt the following changes to the Commencement Faculty Attendance policy. We identified a "gap" in the current policy in that it is silent on the role of lecturers. Although we know that this ideal is not always achieved in every department, the committee feels that we should do more to encourage lecturers to be fully engaged in the university. So we propose to revise this policy to include *all* full-time faculty. We also explicitly rejected weakening the language for lecturers from saying that they are "expected" to participate to merely saying that they are "encouraged" to participate.

Proposed new language:

"Commencement is held twice a year, in the fall and spring semesters. As a professional responsibility and as a show of support for students, all full-time faculty are encouraged to attend both ceremonies but at a minimum are expected to attend one commencement ceremony a year. Each department will be responsible for developing a plan for implementing the policy."

Existing language:

"Commencement is held twice a year, in the fall and spring semesters. As a professional responsibility and as a show of support for students, all tenured and tenure-track faculty are encouraged to attend both ceremonies; but at a minimum, faculty members are expected to attend one commencement ceremony a year. Each department will be responsible for developing a plan for implementing the policy."

Tracked changes:

"Commencement is held twice a year, in the fall and spring semesters. As a professional responsibility and as a show of support for students, all ~~tenured and tenure-track~~full-time faculty are encouraged to attend both ceremonies; but at a minimum, ~~faculty~~members are expected to attend one commencement ceremony a year. Each department will be responsible for developing a plan for implementing the policy."