

## **University Commencement Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 5, 2023**

**12:00PM**

**Zoom**

**Attending:** Diane Zahm (Chair), Jennifer Cleveland, Amie Pendleton, Melissa Wright, Stewart Scales, Danesh Tafti, Marlana Lester, Margaret Deck, Pascha Gerni, Kim O'Rourke, Monica Kimbrell, Prince Wang, Janice Austin, Jennifer Thomas,

**Invited Guest:** Lisa Meddings, Keith Thompson, Zach Roland, Tom Gallemore, Michael Mulhare, Brittany Lee, Andrew Marinik, Eryn Peters, Pamela Vickers, Ciji Good, Deanna Harman

Diane Zahm called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

### **Call for volunteers**

A call of volunteers from the colleges for the Graduate School Ceremony and the University Ceremony was sent out last week by Diane Zahm. The email was sent to the college representatives on the committee and associate deans. College representatives are asked to submit names to the google form included in the email by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **University Speaker Announcement**

The official announcement of the university commencement speaker will be made through a VT News story in the next week or two. The commencement speaker will be Jean Case, the chairman of the National Geographic Society and CEO of the Case Foundation.

The student speakers have been identified and contacted for the university commencement.

The trio of student speakers for the Graduate School Ceremony will be identified in the next few weeks.

The commencement speaker for the D.C. commencement ceremony has been selected and approved by the President's office. The speaker is being confirmed as NATO's Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoană.

### **Spring ceremonies schedule**

The schedule of the college ceremonies was reviewed. The schedule of ceremonies can be found in exhibit A below. The timeline of activities and tasks were reviewed. All logistic groups are asked to add activities to the timeline. The run of show for the university commencement, as seen in Exhibit B, will be updated to reflect student speakers' class officer position and Jean Case's requested title.

### **Communication Plan**

The communication plan was reviewed. There will be several email communications to both graduating students and families regarding the university commencement. Additional communication specific to weather and college ceremonies will also be issued. Questions regarding website information regarding resident halls and lodging. The commencement website will be updated to address additional information regarding availability of staying in resident halls during spring commencement. Current information on the FAQ and Lodging pages direct inquiries to the residential life.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

## **Exhibit A: 2023 Spring Commencement Schedule**

### **Saturday, May 6**

- 9 a.m. Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (Roanoke)

### **Wednesday, May 10**

- 3:30 p.m. Graduate School Commencement
- 7 p.m. Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (Bachelor of Science in Public Health) Ceremony

### **Thursday, May 11**

- 8:30 a.m. Pamplin College of Business
- Noon Pamplin College of Business
- 3:30 p.m. College of Natural Resources and Environment
- 7 p.m. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

### **Friday, May 12**

- 8:30 a.m. University Commencement
- 3:30 p.m. College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- 7 p.m. Corps of Cadets Graduation and Joint Commissioning Ceremony (Burruss Hall)
- 7 p.m. Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Ceremony (Moss Arts Center)

### **Saturday, May 13**

- 8:30 a.m. College of Science
- Noon College of Architecture, Arts, and Design
- 3:30 p.m. College of Engineering
- 7 p.m. College of Engineering

### **Sunday, May 14**

- 1 p.m. Graduate School Commencement (Washington D.C. Metro Area)



## Exhibit B: Virginia Tech Spring 2023 Commencement

### University Commencement Ceremony Program Outline

Friday, May 12, 2023

8:30 a.m.

- 8:15 a.m. Prelude Music Begins**
- 8:30 a.m. Academic Processional (Stage Party Only)**  
Robert Weiss  
Commencement Marshal
- 8:34 a.m. Announcement – Posting of Colors**
- 8:34 a.m. Posting of Colors**  
Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Color Guard
- 8:34 a.m. National Anthem**  
Haley Hansen  
Class of 2024
- 8:37 a.m. Greetings**  
Timothy D. Sands  
University President
- 8:38 a.m. Opening Reflections**  
Marley McCartney  
Female-at-Large, Class of 2022
- 8:40 a.m. Message from the Class President**  
Prince Wang  
President, Class of 2023
- 8:42 a.m. Announcement of Awards**  
Presented by Charlie Phlegar '78, Vice President University Advancement
- A. Carole Pratt '72, Alumni Distinguished Service Award  
Jay S. Poole '78, Alumni Distinguished Service Award
- 8:48 a.m. Introduction of Jean Case**  
Timothy D. Sands
- 8:50 a.m. Commencement Address**

Jean Case

**Title**

- 9:00 a.m. Announcement of Awards**  
Presented by President Sands  
Frank M. Beamer '69, University Distinguished Achievement Award  
Andy Beckstoffer '61, Ut Prosim Medal
- 9:05 a.m. Presentation of Degree Candidates**  
Cyril R. Clarke  
Executive Vice President and Provost and College Deans
- 9:25 a.m. Conferral of Degrees**  
Timothy D. Sands
- 9:28 a.m. Alma Mater**  
Haley Hansen
- 9:30 a.m. Closing Remarks**  
Mason Mulrooney  
**Cadet-at-Large, Class of 2022**
- 9:32 a.m. Concluding Remarks**  
Timothy D. Sands
- 9:34 a.m. Greetings from the Alumni Association**  
Nathan Lavinka  
President, Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors
- 9:36 a.m. Recessional**