

First Monday Report

Focus on
Commencement:

What day, what time,
and what activities?

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Commencement 2014

As many of you are aware, the date for commencement in 2014 was planned for Wednesday, June 11. Recently, the event was rescheduled to Tuesday, June 10. It was changed this year because

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to review their calendar and schedule our commencement events accordingly. Since the conflict last year was with a first Wednesday of the month commencement, I was not concerned because our commencement this year occurs on the second week in June. Apparently, when the Board moved their scheduled meeting to the second Wednesday in June 2013, they decided to leave it on the second Wednesday in 2014; thus, the conflict occurred again.

For several years, the College has celebrated this important annual event on the Wednesday after final exams conclude. Since Board meetings are usually scheduled for Wednesdays, we could continue to have conflicts if we choose to plan commencement for that day of the week. Annually, the Board notices and approves a schedule of its meetings in April or May, so there is sufficient notice of the Board meeting dates for us to plan our commencement ceremony each year. In fact, the meeting schedule for July

2014 through July 2015 was presented for information at their meeting on April 23, 2014, which shows the date of the first meeting in June 2015 scheduled for Wednesday, June 10.

The current conflict and the need to change our date this year presents the College community with an opportunity to review and discuss the planning of this annual event. There are a number of factors to consider. Below are a few of the issues to be discussed in our various governance meetings:

1. On which day of the week should the event be scheduled?
2. What is the impact of scheduling it for the Tuesday, **Wednesday**, or Thursday after final exams conclude?
3. If it is scheduled for Wednesday, what will we do in years when there is a conflict with the Board of Trustees meeting?
4. Should we hold the ceremony on a weekend day, a Saturday or Sunday?

5. Should we continue to hold the ceremony at 6:00 p.m. or should we think about holding a morning ceremony at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m.?
6. Is the current schedule that combines the Awards Brunch, Faculty Gala, and Commencement all on the same day too long, or is it effective as it is currently scheduled?

Planning Ahead