

# THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

## Commencement Committee Minutes

July 27, 2009

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**Members Present:** J. Anderson, L. Andrews, C. Browder, A. Caldwell, S. Chaney, R. Chardkoff, J. Cottingham, K. Crowley, T. Doke, R. Fiorillo, L. Harris/K. Jacobi, M. Koper, C. Lee, B. Mills, C. Murphy, K. Parker, P. Roshto, C. Thameling, S. Ward, N. White, R. Williamson, M. Wortham.

**Members Absent:** B. Bennett, R. Brown, D. Bucazala, M. Caldwell, S. Chenoweth, V. Durkee, D. Eichhorn, L. Ellerman, A. Hibbetts, A. Hill, S. Hill, S. Humes, S. Jones, U. Ograk, S. Owens, A. Picard, B. Smith, D. Stokes, A. Wiedemeier, E. Williamson.

The July 27, 2009, meeting of the Commencement Committee (CC), held in Administration 1-47, was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Committee Chair Karen Crowley. The meeting was comprised of the following agenda items:

### 1. Welcome

Ms. Crowley welcomed all members, thanking them for their willingness to serve and their attendance at the meeting.

### 2. Review of Minutes – April 27, 2009

Minutes from the April 27, 2009, committee meeting were reviewed and approved (motion made by Dr. Thameling, seconded by Ms. Wortham).

### 3. Overview of 2009 Summer Commencement Ceremony

Ms. Crowley made the following remarks about the 2009 Summer Commencement:

- As of this date, we will award 220 degrees to 218 students; however, we can expect those numbers to change when we remove those who did not meet degree requirements and identify students who will graduate *in absentia*.
- Dr. Bob Cage will deliver the commencement address.
- Dr. Matthew James will be the soloist.
- Dr. Chris Michaelides will be the announcer for the ceremony.

### 4. Preparation for Rehearsal and Ceremony

The following items were discussed in preparation for the upcoming rehearsal and ceremony:

- **Review of instructions:** Ms. Williamson directed committee members to the Fant-Ewing diagram for their assignments. For training purposes, newly-appointed members have been paired with members who have served previously. Committee members are asked to arrive at 8:45 a.m. on August 14 (rehearsal) and at 1:00 p.m. on August 15 (ceremony).
- **Placement of signs:** Ms. Ward, Ms. Chaney, Dr. Cottingham, Ms. Murphy, and Dr. Anderson indicated they were available to help hang signs in Fant-Ewing on August 13 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Information sheet for guests requiring floor-level seating:** Ms. Crowley reported that the information sheet for guests requiring floor-level seating recently has been revised to clarify its purpose.
- **Student-group assistance for guests entering via the ramp:** Ms. Murphy will attempt to engage OT students to assist guests entering via the ramp and will let Ms. Williamson know the status.

### 5. Dates/Times for the 2009 Summer Ceremony

Ms. Crowley called Committee members' attention to the following dates and times for the upcoming summer ceremony:

- Rehearsal – 08/14/09, report at 8:45 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. rehearsal
- Ceremony – 08/15/09, report at 1:00 p.m. for 2:00 p.m. ceremony

### 6. Policy for “Walking” Before Degree Completion

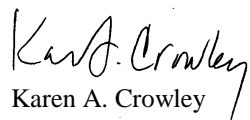
Ms. Crowley announced that the 2009 Summer Commencement will be the final summer ceremony. Even though there will no longer be a ceremony, we will continue to award degrees and issue diplomas just as we have always done for summer completers.

A discussion ensued about whether students should be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony (i.e., “walk”) before completing degree requirements. In summary, members continued to support the Committee’s long-held position that students should complete all requirements before being allowed to participate. However, they will return to their departments/colleges to discuss the matter with their colleagues before the Committee makes a final decision relative to the policy we will recommend to the administration.

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen A. Crowley".

Karen A. Crowley  
Commencement Committee Chair and  
Associate University Registrar  
27 July 2009