

GFC Convocation Committee – ANNUAL REPORT (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)
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Overview: This committee is responsible for overseeing all Convocation Ceremonies, approving the schedule of events, order of proceedings, citations for honorary degree recipients and award winners. This year the committee oversaw the Fall 2015 and the Spring 2016 Ceremonies. Highlights of the past year include the 1725 students who graduated over the five ceremonies, replacing the old Invocation with a new Reflection, and welcoming new Chief Marshal Dr. Olu Awosoga for a three-year term

Meetings: The GFC Convocation Committee met three times this year.

2 October 2015: The committee gave its final approval to the new “Reflection,” which will replace the old “Invocation” in the Spring 2016 ceremonies. Chief Marshal Sheila McManus will represent the committee at an upcoming GFC meeting so that the new Reflection can be formally approved. Also at this meeting there was some early discussion about updating the Program, including standardizing how much information is included about different categories of graduands.

26 February 2016: We were particularly delighted to have President Mike Mahon join us for this meeting, as we made some crucial decisions about updating the Convocation Program. The committee eagerly endorsed a new look and feel, as well as shortening and updating the citations to a more conversational tone, and including shorter messages from key people on campus. The Chief Marshal sought input on expanding and improving last year’s efforts to increase faculty attendance. We were pleased to inform the committee that shortening the wait time for students before each Ceremony by 30 minutes had been very successful in the Fall and will be permanently implemented in the Spring; it is a testament to the efficiency of the staff in charge of that process!

12 May 2016: As per usual for the final meeting before the Spring Ceremonies, this meeting focused on updating the committee on the final preparations, approximate attendance information, as well as giving them a sneak peek of the new Program.

Upcoming: In 2016/2017, the GFC Convocation Committee will continue to meet regularly to oversee the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Ceremonies. We expect to welcome a new Chair of the Board of Governors at the October 2016 ceremony.