

Motion from Provost Mikhalevsky to the University Academic Affairs Committee

Davis, I would like to ask the UAAC to consider developing an appeals process for our walking at Commencement policy. Our current policy for walking at Commencement reads: "In extraordinary situations, a student who requires no more than one course for graduation and plans to complete the degree requirement following commencement may petition the Office of the Registrar for special consideration to participate in the commencement ceremony." When a student has more than one course remaining and is told by the registrar's office that the student cannot walk, as you can imagine, the president's office, my office, and others receive appeals from those students ---and occasionally, one or two of those appeals are from students with genuinely compelling and even tragic circumstances. We also have students who will miss the "one course" cut off and whose faculty then work with them to create an ad hoc solution to bring them to the "one course" remaining and thus able to walk, while other students in similar circumstances may not have a faculty member to assist them or identify similar options.

I ask that the UAAC to consider establishing an appeals process for students who wish to walk at Commencement and have not met the one course restriction. We do make exceptions to academic policies as necessary (eg providing appropriate substitutions for gen eds or major requirements) and thus our students also assume that this is a policy they can appeal ---and they do. But I do not think it appropriate or advisable that appeals of this policy come directly to the president, provost, or deans --- I think appeals of this particular academic policy should go to a faculty committee, similar to the Committee on Academic Standing, and that the decision of the faculty committee should be final.

Please convey this request to the UAAC for their agenda for next fall. Let me know if you have any questions/concerns.

Best, Nina

Nina Mikhalevsky

Provost

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Proposed Changes to the Undergraduate Catalog and Academic Procedures

Directory

Language in the catalog (new language is in red)

UMW holds commencement annually in May. The date for the degree awarded is the conclusion of the summer, fall or spring terms in which all the degree requirements were completed. The student is cleared for the degree award and the degree is posted on the official transcript at the conclusion of the summer, fall or spring terms in which all degree requirements were completed and all other obligations to the university have been met. Students submit degree applications during the second semester of the junior year. In extraordinary situations, a

student who requires no more than one course (up to a maximum of 4 credits) for graduation and plans to complete the degree requirement following commencement may petition the Office of the Registrar for special consideration to participate in the commencement ceremony no later than the close of business on the Tuesday immediately preceding commencement for special consideration to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Language in the Academic Procedures Directory:

UMW holds commencement annually in May. The date for the degree awarded is the conclusion of the summer, fall or spring terms in which all the degree requirements were completed. The student is cleared for the degree award and the degree is posted on the official transcript at the conclusion of the summer, fall or spring terms in which all degree requirements were completed and all other obligations to the university have been met. Students submit degree applications during the second semester of the junior year. In extraordinary situations, a student who requires no more than one course (up to a maximum of 4 credits) for graduation and plans to complete the degree requirement following commencement may petition the Office of the Registrar for special consideration to participate in the commencement ceremony no later than the close of business on the Tuesday immediately preceding commencement for special consideration to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Following receipt of the petition, the Registrar will initiate a formal review of the request. The petition will be considered by a committee consisting of the Dean of the College in which the student is enrolled, the Registrar, the Dean of Student Life, and the chair of the University Academic Affairs Committee. At the conclusion of this process, the Registrar will communicate the final decision of the committee to the student.