

A motion regarding commencement regalia

Moved: Jackie Gallagher; Seconded: Anand Rao

Background: Currently, Phi Beta Kappa students wear a medal, Honors Program students wear a stole, and others may wear cords. There is no limit to number of cords that may be worn. Graduation cords have already been approved by the [Office of Student Activities and Engagement](#) for certain populations, and others are available for members of various academic honor societies, as approved by their academic advisers. Members of Class Council have requested permission to wear a stole to demonstrate their leadership achievements while at UMW.

If stoles remain limited to Honors Program students, UFC needs to create a committee to deal with petitions by individual students and groups. The Provost reports that these are already frequent, and the Commencement Committee is not the correct body to respond to such petitions (deals with organizational and safety issues; too large). This could be added to the duties of an existing committee, recognizing that a procedure for petitioning will need to be created, and the committee will have to meet and adhere to the deadline(s) and rationale created.

If stoles are not already standard for the organization but need to be created, students must use UMW Design Services (correct colors, font, appearance) and existing contracts to procure their stoles.

Motion: Every campus organization has a faculty adviser or supervisor. Guided by UMW's mission and statement of community values, and following basic standards of academic dress, the faculty adviser should decide what graduating members of the organization may wear at commencement. Gowns must be black, and mortarboards must be black but may be decorated/personalized. While it is possible for students to wear several cords, only one stole may be worn, and only one medal may be worn. The dignity of the occasion should be considered in deciding what to wear.

Rationale: While commencement is an academic exercise, getting there depends on far more than academics alone. Student groups are looking for recognition of their achievements on campus through commencement regalia and feel that the current option of cords is insufficient. One student group is allowed to wear stoles, so they do stand out. This group is recognized in several other more practical ways. It seems prudent to allow other groups to also wear stoles provided that the dignity of commencement exercises is preserved.