

# 2022-2023 Annual Council Committee Report

Committee: Convocations

Prepared by: Patricia Nolin

Date: May 3, 2023

## **Include the following information in your annual report:**

1. Members of the committee (including name of the chair)

Patricia Nolin, Chair; Quenby Hughes, Susan Weiss, Theodore Jenkins, Pamela Christman (David Toms) Kevin Fitta, Patrice Mettaur, Ducha Hang, Shannon McDonald, Maria Visquez (fall semester).

2. Meeting dates: December 6, December 14, February 2, February 23, March 2, March 16, March 30, April 14

3. Summary of committee activities (Please also include relevant minutes in an attachment)  
This year the mission of the Convocation Committee was extremely relevant for the future of convocations on (and off) campus. Coming back to full participation post-covid, made our work precise and detailed as we look forward to in person ceremonies and convocations. The three areas we focused on (and continue to do so) were a successful commencement at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, a reorganizing and rethinking of Cap and Gown Convocation, and the possibility of having commencement on the RIC Campus once again. The group also discussed its role in New Student Convocation and what if any involvement it should have.

4. Decisions approved and actions taken (including proposals approved by Council)  
Members self-selected subcommittee work on the three areas mentioned above. Members also were asked to part of a larger Commencement Committee Planning team working on logistical aspect of Commencement 2023.  
The chair and faculty member Hughes presented to Council in March to share the work of the committee regarding changes in the Cap and Gown Convocation to be more inclusive of all graduates and more celebratory in nature.  
A subgroup convened to begin the discussion and diligence necessary to research the possibilities of bringing commencement back to the RIC Campus. Hopefully, this group will reconvene before the end of the semester to solidify the planning process.

5. Recommendations for next year's committee.  
The subgroup on Commencement looking at bringing back commencement to campus will continue to meet. Recommendations should be prepared to go before the Council and the administration by November 2023. The committee should be prepared to receive council on New Student Convocation and how it may interface with other campus

partners. The committee should continue the discussions concerning Cap and Gown Convocation and how to improve its inclusivity and meaning for the Campus Community and its graduates.

6. Self-evaluation

This year saw very active participation from committee members. Discussions were lively which led to positive action to enhance and enrich our ceremonies. Many indicated a desire to continue on the committee to continue the work which had begun. A few of the changes made were received positively. With new leadership and many new staff, there is still much work to be done and a history that needs to be told and embrace with an integrity that will ensure our ceremonies' future.

**Please submit your report to Valerie Endress ([yendress@ric.edu](mailto:yendress@ric.edu)) by April 25, 2023.**