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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Vol. 5 No. 1

April 5, 1973

INSTITUTIONAL SELF-STUDY REPORT

Members of the faculty and staff have been engaged in one facet or another of the institutional Self-Study for more than two years. The Self-Study Report incorporated the reports from various committees and served as the official summary of committee findings, deliberations, evaluations, conclusions, and recommendations. It was edited, published, and distributed to the members of the Visitation Committee who were on the campus last week.

At the conclusion of the visit, brief oral reports were given by the members of the Visitation Committee in the presence of the members of the Self-Study Steering Committee and the Administrative Council. In reporting to you on that meeting, I think it is accurate to say that the comments were generally favorable and in many instances very complimentary. Suggestions were made in some cases, and there were indications that certain specific recommendations would be included in the final report.

The Visitation Committee will submit its written report to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and later to the University. This will include comments, reactions, suggestions, and recommendations on each of the eleven standards. The official report from the Southern Association will be received in the summer or early fall. I am confident it will confirm our having satisfactorily met each of the standards. The Southern Association makes a distinction between suggestions and recommendations in that the University is required to make a specific response to each recommendation.

As I reflect upon the statements made during the conference with the Visitation Committee prior to their departure and the private discussions which I had with various members of the Committee, I experience a genuine sense of gratification. There are problems, to be sure, and there are areas of the University in need of improvement. Overall, however, we have reason to be proud of the University-particularly the people who make up the University community.

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The basic element in the University is our people--faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends--and it is gratifying that this element received most favorable comments. This is a tribute to you and others who continue to contribute to the strengthening and improvement of Western through your commitment to quality education and academic excellence.

I would be remiss if I did not express my personal thanks and the appreciation of the University to the director and co-director of the Self-Study. Appreciation is also extended to members of the Steering Committee, the chairman of the committee on each of the standards and the chairmen of departmental committees, and to each person who served on committees or contributed in other ways to the Self-Study.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

May 11

7:00 p.m.

Approval has been given to the plans and program for the 1973 Spring Commencement as recommended by the Graduation Committee. Commencement and the related events have traditionally been characterized by unusual dignity and beauty of which Western is proud. In calling your attention to the 1973 Spring Commencement, I would also urge that we not overlook the importance of this event in the lives of the graduates and their relatives and friends. Each member of the faculty and staff is requested to make every effort to participate in the commencement events in a manner which will guarantee the success of this function. The following schedule of events is provided to aid you in planning for the occasion, and particular attention is called to the Instructions for Participants in Graduation Exercises attached for your information.

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May 12	10:00 a.m.	Commencement Exercises - E. A. Diddle
		Arena. Speaker: Governor Wendell H. Ford.
		Degrees will be conferred upon candidates

	for master's, bachelor's and associate degrees	
11:15 a.m.	1:15 a.m. Faculty and Administrative Staff Reception	
-	for Graduates - Lobby, Downing University	
1:00 p.m.	Center. Each member of the faculty and staff is a co-host and is requested to be present	
	for at least a short period of time during the reception to greet the honorees and their guests.	

ROTC Commissioning Exercises - College of Education Building Auditorium

Dero G. Downing President

Instructions for Participants in Graduation Exercises

Graduation is scheduled for 10 a.m., Saturday, May 12, in the E. A. Diddle Arena. It is respectfully requested that faculty and administrative staff assemble in academic regalia, taking your place in the line no later than 9:45 a.m. In timing your arrival at the arena, special consideration should be given to the parking and traffic problems which will result from the large crowd that is expected for the occasion.

Dr. James L. Davis is coordinating the processional, and he has requested that the participants assemble on the University Boulevard side of the parking lot adjacent to the L. T. Smith Stadium.

Please follow the marshalls during the processional, as they will indicate the route and the proper seating arrangement. Any member of the faculty or administrative staff who has not arranged for the proper academic attire should contact Mr. B. A. Childress, Director of University Stores, for assistance.

In case of inclement weather, there will not be a processional; and participants are requested to be seated in the chair sections behind the stage by 9:45 a.m.

The Committee on Graduation will appreciate the cooperation and assistance of each person so that we can be assured of having another outstanding commencement program.

Rhea P. Lazarus, Chairman Committee on Graduation