



Office of the Secretary of the University

July 27, 2009

To: Kenneth W. Swalagin
Executive Secretary, University Senate

From: Leslie A. Fehrenbach *LSF*
Secretary of the University

Subject: Academic Calendar Commencement Date Changes

I am writing to request that the University Senate change the University Commencement dates on the academic calendar for 2010 and beyond.

As you know, a committee has been reviewing the University Commencement ceremony to reconfigure it to accommodate the changes resulting from the transformation of undergraduate education in New Brunswick and the creation of the School of Arts and Sciences. With the consolidation of the undergraduate colleges and the increase in the number of students who will graduate together, it will no longer be possible to continue to hold the SAS commencement on the Voorhees mall after 2010.

The committee has recommended that, beginning in 2011, the first year that the School of Arts and Sciences will graduate a full class, the all-university commencement be moved to the Stadium and held on a Sunday. This larger venue would accommodate all the graduates and their guests, and the movement to Sunday would alleviate the traffic and other major logistical problems that might occur with the now-larger graduating class. Individual units would continue to hold smaller convocations, as they do now; I have attached, for your information, a draft outline of the commencement schedule for 2011.

We are also requesting at this time that the university commencement date for May 2010, which is presently scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 18th, be rescheduled to accommodate the Jewish holiday of Shavuot. Changing this date to Sunday, May 16th at 1 p.m. will inaugurate the tradition of Sunday commencements and make it possible for religiously observant students to attend the ceremony.

In summary, we ask that the date of Commencement 2010 be changed to Sunday, May 16th, and that Commencement 2011 be scheduled for Sunday, May 15th.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this or would like more information about these proposed changes.

Attachment