

To the CCSU Faculty Senate:

The Student Government Association is pleased to see the Faculty Senate is focusing on the issue of fall commencement. This would address an issue that the SGA hears about regularly from students, many of whom are frustrated by the situation they find themselves in when they realize they will be finishing their education in the fall.

Often, students wish to solve their dilemma by arguing for their right to participate in spring commencement ceremonies, despite not meeting the university's credit requirements at the time. While SGA is sympathetic to this desire and would not necessarily object to that solution, we have come to understand the objections of faculty and administration on that front. We find the reinstitution of a separate fall commencement ceremony to be an acceptable alternative. Occasional discussions with students about this possibility have not yielded any disagreement with that conclusion.

That being said, we would like to take a moment to respond to the objections posed by the Graduate Studies Committee, which appear to be threefold.

First, the GSC seems concerned about what ramifications this might have for graduate commencement ceremonies. Given the GSC's mission, it is natural that they would raise the question; however, a close read of both the SGA (which does not represent graduate students) and Faculty Senate resolutions in question will make it clear that neither organization is, as of now, calling for changes to be made to graduate commencement exercises.

Second, they charge that the additional resources required to conduct a fall commencement ceremony are unreasonable. Having not seen quotes for the cost of such a ceremony, we regret that we cannot express an opinion on the veracity of this statement; however, it is a very real concern that all are sensitive to, and we would welcome such a quote by any party capable of submitting one.

Third, the GSC is worried about scheduling. This is another very understandable concern. We have regrettably been unable to dig up old calendars showing the scheduling of past fall commencement ceremonies. Regardless, we are confident that if this university has accomplished such a feat in the past, it is more than capable of doing it again.

Overall, while salient and worth considering carefully, we do not believe the GSC's concerns are enough of a reason to discount the pursuit of a fall commencement ceremony. Rather, they serve as an excellent reminder that such an event deserves the same careful planning and attention to detail which we would reserve for any such event. We look forward to it.

Regards,
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SGA Academic Affairs Chair, 2013-14

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SGA President