

GFC Convocation Committee – ANNUAL REPORT (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)
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15 September 2015

Overview: This committee is responsible for overseeing all Convocation Ceremonies, approving the schedule of events, order of proceedings, citations for honorary degree recipients and award winners. This year the committee oversaw the Fall 2014 and the Spring 2015 Ceremonies. We had more than 1700 students graduate over the five ceremonies, and welcomed new Chancellor Janice Varzari in the Spring.

Meetings: The GFC Convocation Committee met three times this year.

29 September 2014: We discussed preparations for the October 2014 Convocation, particularly the fact that it would be Chancellor Shirley McClellan's last ceremony. We also discussed the suggestion that this committee be responsible for overseeing the new Commencement ceremonies, but there was general agreement that this is not the most appropriate committee to oversee that new initiative. We also learned that a donor had provided funds for special FNMI events for Spring 2015, perhaps for a full Pow Wow.

27 March 2015: We approved a revised version of the posthumous degree procedures, which helped guide us through the difficult reality of granting a posthumous degree at the Spring ceremony. The donor funds for the FNMI events were now going to be spent on a round dance and dinner. New terms of reference for the Chief Marshal have been approved. The committee also discussed strategies for increasing faculty attendance, and revising the current invocation.

6 May 2015: We discussed the final order of proceedings for all four spring ceremonies, including the additional details involved for installing the new Chancellor. We struck a small working group to revise the invocation.

Upcoming: In 2015/2016, the GFC Convocation Committee will continue to meet regularly to oversee the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 Ceremonies. We anticipate approving a new invocation before the Spring 2016 ceremonies. We will also be welcoming a new Chief Marshal in the Spring.