

GFC Convocation Committee – ANNUAL REPORT (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

Prepared by the Chief Marshal Michelle Hogue and Convocation Coordinator Miranda Mackenzie
August 16, 2022

- Members:** Michelle Hogue, Jodie Gallais, Charles Weaselhead, Kathleen Massey, Natasha Buis Deering, Miranda Mackenzie, Heather Fudge, Romany Craig, Olu Awosoga, Tony Montana, Priyanka Dutt, Katharina Stevens, Holly Kletke, Shay-lynn Dauncey, Lauren Zink, Annette Bright, Kali McKay, Lindsay Montana, Sheena Nieboer, Marlene Taylor, Crystal Volk
- 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 2021 Convocation in a Box and Spring 2022 in-person ceremonies. Highlights of the past year include the **1721** students who graduated, some celebrating with Convocation in a Box, and others attending the six ceremonies over three days. The return to in-person Convocation ceremonies, required an extra day of ceremonies to accommodate the 2020/2021 graduates, whose ceremonies were cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Some exciting highlights included the first (2) Inclusive Education graduates being recognized for the completion of their programs, as well as a record number of Indigenous graduates (99).
- Meetings:** The GFC Convocation Committee met 2 times this year.
- July 15, 2021:** A discussion surrounding planning an in-person Fall 2021 ceremony, as well as welcoming back alumni who graduated during the Covid-19 Pandemic, began. Restrictions were assumed to be lifted by the time the October 16th ceremonies were to take place. The committee discussed all aspects of this, including number of ceremonies, health and safety considerations and executing a special celebration for Covid-19 grads. The budget was addressed as a particular concern for this, as extra ceremonies are costly.
- September 27, 2022:** This meeting was cancelled due new Covid restrictions and the shift to a Convocation in a Box.
- March 31, 2022:** This was the final meeting before the Spring 2022 ceremonies. Key date changes were presented as a result of the faculty strike, including an extended period for students to apply to graduate. As well, due to the delayed submission of grades, we discussed that students would not be receiving their physical parchments, honour cords or medals on the day of convocation. A plan to provide a letter from the chancellor, and mailout cords & medals was discussed. In-person ceremony planning was presented as underway to the committee. Additionally, updates were provided on the plan to celebrate 2020/2021 graduates with two additional ceremonies. The Inclusive Education parchment was voted on and approved at this meeting. The Order of Conferral for Spring 2022 ceremonies was voted on and approved as well. Heather Fudge's resignation was noted, and the incoming Convocation Coordinator (Miranda MacKenzie) was announced.

Summary: Graduates:
 Fall 2021 – 297
 Spring 2022 – 1424
 TOTAL – 1721

Graduates who attended Convocation:
Fall 2021 – Convocation in a box
Spring 2022 – 952

Upcoming: In 2022/2023 the GFC Convocation Committee will continue to meet regularly to oversee Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 ceremonies. We expect to welcome new members of the GFC Convocation committee.

Miranda MacKenzie

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Convocation Coordinator

Michelle Hogue
Chief Marshall