Annual Report of the Public Functions Committee

The Public Functions Committee has the responsibility of directing the preparation for the January and June Commencements.

After one organizational meeting and one meeting used to establish certain responsibilities of the members, the remainder of the work was achieved by individual assignments and personal contact by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Faculty.

There was little innovation or change at the January Commencement. However, the Committee recommends that every effort be made to locate an auditorium with greater seating capacity than that available in the Union Ballroom. The size of the graduating class now limits participation to a few faculty representing each of the schools and colleges. Of at least as great importance is that the graduates are severely restricted as to the number of tickets they may have for distribution to their families.

The Committee also recommends that the midyear Commencement be given greater stature by the granting of an Honorary Degree and/or providing for a Commencement speaker of national renown. Those graduating at midyear feel that their Commencement is not comparable to the end-of-the-year ceremonies. It was also suggested that a senior convocation be considered as part of the midyear Commencement program.

The principal innovation planned for the June Commencement is that of providing tent coverage for the athletic field on the day of Commencement. Tent coverage can be obtained that will seat approximately 8,000 guests. The tent will provide protection from rain and also from abnormally hot sun. It will make unnecessary the preparation of duplicate facilities.

A subcommittee has been appointed to explore available locations for the 1968 Commencement. The present athletic field will not be available after this year. It was recommended that the Committee give special attention to developing another campus location or a location adjoining the campus rather than transferring Commencement to the downtown area.

A word of appreciation should be included in this report acknowledging the fine cooperation and assistance received from the Office of the Registrar, the Alumni Association, the Instructional Communications Center, the University Bookstore, the Department of Music, the Physical Plant services, the Plant Protection Division, the Department of Theatre Arts, the Union, and the University News Service. The Committee is also most appreciative of the volunteer service of the University Woman's League.

PUBLIC FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

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