

ASU Faculty Senate Resolution (FSR 2003-01)
Resolution to Change the Format of ASU Commencement
Submitted February 21, 2003

We, the faculty of Arkansas State University, believe that the current format used for ASU Commencement ceremonies is unsatisfactory. We believe that the current format is excessive in length, lacks the necessary and expected dignity, is rather impersonal and is an event that many faculty and students seek to avoid. We believe that the sale of concessions, students leaving commencement during the ceremony, poor student/faculty attendance, and a “sporting event” atmosphere are symptoms that the format of Commencement needs alteration.

Therefore, be it resolved that the faculty of Arkansas State University request that an alternative format for Commencement be devised no later than the end of the Fall 2003 semester and be implemented for the May 2004 Commencement and thereafter. We request that a group composed of no fewer than 3 representatives each from the Faculty Senate, the Student Government Association and the Administration meet to determine this new format.

We additionally make the following suggestions for this new format:

- There should be 2 Commencement ceremonies annually rather than 3, 1 in the Spring and 1 in the Fall
- Commencement exercises should be divided into 2 parts – a university-wide ceremony and college-specific ceremonies
- The university ceremony should include:
 - A graduation speaker
 - Graduates recognized in groups by the Deans of their respective colleges
 - Diplomas handed out after the ceremony (if diplomas are given at the university-wide ceremony instead of at the college-specific ceremonies)
 - The option of a faculty rotation
 - No concession sales
- The college ceremonies should (at the discretion of the college):
 - Provide a smaller, more personal environment
 - Allow individual students to be recognized by name and to receive their diplomas
 - Allow family and friends to take pictures and interact with graduates and faculty members
- No parking tickets should be given on the day of Commencement except in spots obviously marked as special parking or no parking (such as handicapped parking or fire zones)

We believe that a format that includes these elements will result in shorter, more dignified, more personal and better-attended Commencement services.