

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 16–02

Reducing stress levels of students and faculty as result of investments of family and friends to attend the graduation ceremony

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Whereas the student body of LSU becomes more nationally and internationally diverse and thus family and friends of graduates need to make more often costly travel arrangements several months in advance to be able to attend graduation ceremonies;

Whereas stressful events in the last semester could reduce the learning capabilities of students which could result in grades prohibitive to graduate;

Whereas the knowledge that investments made by family members to attend the graduation ceremony add to the stress of receiving low grades in the last semester;

Whereas the graduation ceremony is an event that not only celebrates the student accomplishments, but also is a celebration acknowledging the support of family and friends.

Therefore be it resolved that graduating seniors will be able to request up until one month before the start of the final examinations when the senior is expected to graduate to delay their participation in the graduation ceremony until the graduation ceremony following the semester they are graduating.

University	Time Between Classes and Commencement	Allow Delay Graduation to Next Semester
U.C. Berkeley	Day after finals - can walk in ceremony; does not mean degree is conferred - departmental graduation ceremony for actual degree	Can delay walking one semester
Sam Houston	Monday after final grades due	Dean of college has to approve if walk different semester than finish
Vanderbilt	One commencement per year in May, so 2-3 days after Spring Finals, is always on Friday, but for December graduates, have to wait until May graduation	No one has ever asked to delay, as would need to wait a year
Cornell	commencement happens before final grades are due; graduation actually done within schools - generic certificates used	Can delay walking one semester; can walk in May if graduating in August
Georgetown	2-3 days after final grades are due - usually grades due on Friday and commencement on Monday	If graduating in August can walk across stage in May, but name not printed in program; no one has ever asked to delay one semester, so would be on a case by case basis
Alabama	Three commencement ceremonies in May, split up my college within the university; one on the Friday evening following the last final exams, and two on the following Saturday; also two in December, both occurring on the Saturday immediately following the final Friday of Exams.	Students may walk even if they have not completed degree requirement, but no diploma will be granted until all course credits have been earned.
Georgia	Friday following last day of finals which could be any weekday (this year, it is a Tuesday). Grades due Monday following commencement. Anyone (really, anyone) can walk in commencement assuming they are wearing a cap and gown. Very unregulated.	Diplomas are sent six weeks via USPS six weeks following student's achievement of requisite course credits.
Kentucky	Last day of finals is Friday, commencement is the next day, Saturday. Exception: If the Kentucky Derby falls on Saturday, commencement is Sunday.	Two commencement ceremonies- May and December. Student may choose to walk at either, but degree is not granted until requisite course credits are earned. Diploma is sent via USPS after 90 days

Arkansas	Commencement is held on the Saturday following the Friday that classes end.	Students who are a few credits short of the graduation requirement may walk in the commencement ceremony, but will not receive their diploma until they reach the requisite course requirements. Diploma sent by USPS.
Davidson	Seniors finish with classes earlier than other students- about a week before commencement. For example, this year commencement is on Sunday, the 15th. The last day of regular classes is the Wednesday, the 11th. Seniors finish on Monday, the 9th.	Students who are a few credits short of the graduation requirement may walk in the commencement ceremony, but will not receive their diploma until the following May. Diploma sent by registered mail.
