Commencement Changes

VFTH

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Big changes are coming to WKU’s spring commencement ceremonies as the university plans for a two day celebration.

Amy Bingham has details in this week’s View from the Hill.

Individual colleges will have the opportunity to celebrate their own graduates in a series of six ceremonies this spring. But the MAIN event will be a university wide commencement at Smith Stadium the night before.

Changes are coming to WKU’s traditional graduation ceremonies.

 “We are wanting the spring commencement to be more of a celebration and be more centered and focused on the students.”

University Registrar Tiffany Robinson and her staff are gearing up for an outdoor ceremony conferring degrees on all the graduates at one time.

 “We will start on Friday night with the all college ceremony. We are thinking about an hour in and out. Very quick. Then we will lead the students from the stadium to the South Lawn for the Big Red Bash which will be an all out celebration.”

Individual recognition, including a hand shake with President Tim Caboni will take place the following day when each college hosts its own ceremony in Diddle Arena.

 “Very positive feedback from the colleges. I think they’re excited about the opportunity to really personalize a ceremony and have that individual time with their students.”

Mindy Harrison is a student assistant in the registrars offices. She will be among the first batch of graduates to experience this new format.

 “I’m excited. I think it will be cool because it’s different. I don’t know how I feel about two different ceremonies. I feel like some people might not go to both.”

Robinson says her office IS starting to get a lot of questions about the changes.

 “Of course you know change is always difficult for some folks and they were used to how the old ceremony was and I think it’s just the fact of them not knowing what its going to look like. I think they will be very excited once they get a chance to see it”

Again to recap. A university wide ceremony is planned for Friday night May 11th at Smith Stadium followed by a Big Red Bash on the South Lawn for graduates and their families.

Then each college will hold individual ceremonies beginning at 8 the next morning in Diddle Arena.

For a complete schedule, log onto wku.edu slash commencement.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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