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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty

FROM: Strom Thacker

DATE: May 3, 2021

As you know, the College plans to host outdoor (rain or shine), in-person Commencement celebrations for the Class of 2021 at 10 a.m. on June 13, 2021 and for the Class of 2020 at 10 a.m. on June 20, 2021. Both ceremonies will take place on Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library. Faculty will robe at their offices or homes and find their seats in the faculty section and be seated by 9:30 a.m. Only the platform party will process. During the recessional, faculty will follow the platform party to recess to Rugby Field. Note that, due to New York State health and safety requirements, the faculty seating area will differ from normal for this year's events. It will not be under the Lippman Hall or the Karp Hall colonnades but behind the graduates, spaced six feet apart. Please visit the Commencement web site at www.union.edu/commencement for updated information.

The post-Commencement academic department and program gatherings will be held at various outdoor locations across campus where smaller groups of graduates, faculty, staff and ticketed guests will be able to visit and take pictures. We will provide more information about this in the coming weeks. In compliance with current NYS guidelines on end-of-year academic celebrations, diplomas will be handed out centrally at the commencement location, rather than at the post-ceremony gatherings.

Baccalaureate Commemorations will be virtual this year. Stay tuned for further details.

These two celebrations cap an extraordinarily challenging and demanding fifteen months for our students and faculty alike. Your participation in the commencement festivities means a great deal to the students. For many of them, this is a last chance to say goodbye to faculty members who have been an important part of their lives and an opportunity to introduce you to their families. In surveys of the classes of 2020 and 2021, both classes emphasized a strong desire to connect with and thank their faculty as one of the biggest reasons they wanted an in-person celebration. I join them in appreciation for your participation in these events.

Caps and gowns will be available from the Campus Bookstore. For junior faculty, there will be no charge for cap and gown rental but there is a \$40 charge for hood rental. For senior faculty, there is a charge of \$40 for cap and gown rental, and another \$40 for hood rental. Please contact Roubina Morgan (morganr@union.edu, 518-388-6704) to order caps, gowns, and hoods. **She**

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needs to place the order by Friday, May 14. Please note that there is no requirement that one wear a hood in an academic procession.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Commencement Committee for their hard work in making preparations for this important event.

Best wishes for the remainder of the spring term.

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Commencement Weekend 2021

Friday, May 14	Orders Due for Caps, Gowns and Hoods (Roubina Morgan – Bookstore, morganr@union.edu , 518-388-6704)
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Saturday, June 12 4:00 p.m.	Baccalaureate Commemoration, virtual
Sunday, June 13 9:30 a.m.	Robe at your offices or homes and be seated on the Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library
10:00 a.m.	Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2021 Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library (rain or shine)
12:00 noon	Post-Commencement academic department and program gatherings at various outdoor locations (to be posted later)
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Saturday, June 19 4:00 p.m.	Baccalaureate Commemoration, virtual
Sunday, June 20 9:30 a.m.	Robe at your office and be seated on the Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library
10:00 a.m.	Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2020 Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library (rain or shine)
12:00 noon	Post-Commencement academic department and program gatherings at various outdoor locations (to be poster later)