



April 30, 2020

To: President Cropper and Cabinet
From: Commencement Committee
Re: Commencement 2020 Recommendation

Due to the anticipated extension of social distancing guidelines and bans on large group gatherings through at least the summer, and from the responses received through the graduating cadet survey, the Commencement Committee is presenting the following recommendation that combines a virtual celebration and activities to engage the Class of 2020 in the years to come.

Virtual Celebration

- General Virtual Graduation Celebration to happen on May 30, 2020.
 - o 10-15 minutes in length
 - o Prerecorded video playing via Facebook Live
 - o Program EXAMPLE
 - Welcome Class of 2020 from Corps Commander
 - Year in Review and Congrats from the President
 - Congrats/Acknowledgements from the Provost and Deans in regalia in a Zoom gallery format
 - Shout outs from notable alumni and elected officials
 - Virtual Tassel Change or Tossing of the Cover by AS President
 - Alma Mater- Maybe Zoom Gallery of Chorale
 - Animated Photo Mosaic (cadet submitted photos)
 - Congratulatory Video Messages from alumni, faculty, staff.
- Option for a personalized keepsake video
 - o Similar format to a Facebook Memory video.
- Mailed Grad Packet
 - o Diploma Cover
 - o Printed Program
 - o License Plate Frame/Note from Alumni Assoc.
 - o Trinket/Giveaway/Confetti for Social Media Campaign
- Social Media Campaign to engage students and parents.
- Request Alumni and Faculty/Staff to submit video of congrats to the Class of 2020.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY MARITIME ACADEMY

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- “Adopt a Grad” – This would be an opt in for graduating seniors to receive well wishes (cards, balloons, flowers, etc.) from alumni, faculty/staff, or community members who would volunteer to participate through email and social media request.

Continued Engagement

- An in-person celebration is being considered to include grads, family, and alumni once social distancing practices have been lightened.
- Extend “Golden Ticket” Invite to graduates that would allow them to participate in any future commencement ceremony (uniform and grooming standards will apply).
- Work with cadet leaders to begin developing a 5 year reunion & a Class of 2020 time capsule project
 - o Reunion: Cadets would work with Alumni Director to begin planning a special 5yr reunion now.
 - o Time Capsule: Cadets could submit items for the capsule via drop off (during face-to-face instruction or via mail). Capsule could be kept in new Mayo Hall until 5 year reunion. EXAMPLE items to include:
 - Letters to self
 - Cruise T-Shirts
 - Divisional patches
- Scholarship in the name of the Class of 2020.

Other Celebrations

- Will work with Licensing Programs to host a virtual swearing in via zoom of licensed-track graduates to potentially be live streamed for families.
- SSOP Commissioning Ceremony to be held in a modified virtual format (ceremony will take place in Rizza for the 6 cadets receiving commissions & LTs with no guests) and be live streamed. Date TBD.
- Senior Awards to be mailed directly to recipients through the Office of the Commandant.
- Master’s Grad Students to participate in Spring 2021 Commencement as a cohort.

Conclusion: The Commencement Committee recommends the pooling of resources and expenses from an in-person event towards implementing a memorable virtual celebration and keepsake for the Class of 2020.

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Major Events Proposed Timeline

"Event"	Timeline	Tentative Date	Responsibility	Comments
Announcement	ASAP	2-May	OOTP Sonne SA	~ Save-the-Date announcement to be shared on original commencement date of 5/2 via social media ~Official commencement plan released by the OOTP ~Follow-up details to be sent by SA
Time Capsule Item Collection	Now - Conclusion of F2F	May 12 -June 6	Alexander Triad/ASCMA	
Swearing In Ceremony	TBD	TBD	Kazek & Christopher McClain & Tener	Feedback was to hold this ceremony virtually.
SSOP Commissioning Ceremony	Day before F2F	19-May	SSOP Perry	
Ship Grad Boxes	Prior to Virtual Celebration	13-May	Keelhauler Shops	Non-F2F Grads
Virtual Celebration	National Maritime Day	22-May	Commencement Committee Birnback/Sonne	Work with graduating cadets on content
Time Capsule Sealed	Conclusion of F2F	6-Jun	Alexander Triad/ASCMA	
Ship Senior Awards	ASAP		Office of the Commandant	Mail Awards to recipients
In Person Class of 2020 Celebration	TBD	TBD	Cosgrove Commencement Committee	~Fall "Homecoming" may be an option. ~Recognize any undergrad Class of 2020 grads in attendance (VIP area?)
Master's Cohort Graduation	Spring 2021	Spring 2021	Arnold Commencement Committee	~ Class of 2020 Master's Cohort to participate

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