

If degree ceremony is outdoors, at the end of the recessional, ask everyone to join reception at Dickinson Court for awarding of diplomas.

Also, before Rush Welter begins to call names for diplomas, ask people to HOLD APPLAUSE UNTIL ALL HAVE BEEN CALLED: also ask if guests would be quiet while the names are being called.

If ceremony is in Greenwall, during recessional music, students will rise and form semicircle around platform. When music is over, announce that the names for diplomas will now be called; ask people to hold applause until all have been called.

When all diplomas are handed out, invite everyone to reception in Newman Court.

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COMMENCEMENT

PRESIDENT

ITEM 1

The Board of Trustees and the Faculty of Bennington College have assembled here this morning to give formal voice to the awarding of degrees to the 51st graduating class.

This assembly provides a fitting occasion to reaffirm the ideals of this remarkable College. I want to begin by reading to you the traditional Commencement statement which we have preserved over the years:

Bennington regards education as a sensual and ethical, no less than an intellectual, process. It seeks to liberate and nurture the individuality, the creative intelligence, and the ethical and aesthetic sensibility of its students, to the end that their richly varied natural endowments will be

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directed toward self-fulfillment and toward constructive social purposes.

We believe that these educational goals are best served by demanding of our students active participation in the planning of their own programs, and in the regulation of their own lives on campus. Student freedom is not the absence of restraint, however; it is rather the fullest possible substitution of habits of self-restraint for restraint imposed by others. The exercise of student freedom is the very condition of a meaningful education, and an essential aspect of the nurture of free citizens, dedicated to civilized values and capable of creative and constructive membership in modern society.

The degree we are about to award certifies that these students have successfully met the standards of quality in academic achievement and of responsibility in

ITEM 1 (cont'd)

citizenship set by the College. The extent to which they have fulfilled the College's and other important aims cannot be formally certified, but the degree does indeed express our confidence that they have understood our ideals and that they will do credit to themselves and their communities.

At Bennington the award of the degree means at least one other thing.

Education here is a reciprocal affair. We who are charged with instruction and educational policy have received as well as given; we have learned from these students as well as taught and counseled them. The conferring of the degree is thus an acknowledgement of the contribution to ourselves personally, and to the College, which these students have made.

We shall continue to follow these students with interest and affection as they

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ITEM 1 (cont'd)

take their roles in other communities. To those communities we confidently recommend them. At Bennington, we shall miss them.

ITEM 2

Will the representatives of the Faculty present their recommendations for the award of degrees. Will the audience please hold applause until each faculty representative has completed the recommendations.

ITEM 4

Members of the Faculty, you have heard the names of those students who have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and are recommended for the award of the Bachelor of Arts Degree and the names of the graduate students who are recommended for the Master of Fine Arts Degree. Do you nominate these

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ITEM 4 (cont'd)

candidates to the Trustees for these purposes? If so, please signify your approval by rising.

ITEM 5

Mr. Chairman: I present for the consideration of the Trustees the students whom you have heard formally nominated by the Faculty for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts.

ITEM 8

Will the Master of Fine Arts Candidates please come forward as I call your names (the President and Chairman of the Board present each with diploma and offer congratulations and a handshake).

ITEM 9

With this formal recognition of academic accomplishment, you join the company of those from this College and all other colleges and universities who have been admitted to the special opportunities and obligations which the Bachelor of Arts Degree and the Master of Fine Arts Degree imply. In the name of all here assembled --- trustees, instructors, fellow students, parents, friends, of yourselves and of the College --- I congratulate you and bid you Godspeed.

(End of President's remarks)

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

ITEM 6

Members of the Bennington College Corporation: By charter, the power of conferring all degrees, diplomas, and honors from this institution is placed in your hands. You have heard the nominations of the Faculty. Please signify your approval of these nominations by rising.

ITEM 7

Members of the Graduating Class and Graduate Students: The Trustees, on the nomination of the Faculty, are proud to award you the degree of Bachelor of Arts and in the case of Graduate Students, the degree of Master of Fine Arts with all the rights and privileges pertaining to those degrees here or elsewhere.

(End of remarks by Chairman of the Board)