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Subject: January 12th meeting with Senate and Administration--how to support a robust graduation
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Hello all,

I wanted to follow up on [the agenda Christina sent earlier](#) with more information about our afternoon session. For the last three years we've had scrappy and creative Car-mencement ceremonies that show a lot about our grit, drive, and ingenuity, but this May will be the first chance for us to hold a commencement in real life, back in the stadiums with all of us, with students' families and friends and supporters. This meeting will be a chance for us to consider how we can support a robust graduation experience for our students, one where they feel celebrated and we are all reminded of the work we're doing in students' lives and communities; the important relationships that underpin everything we do. This should be a celebration, a chance to connect with our students, their families, and friends, and a sendoff for the summer. I've heard many of you advocate powerfully for this over the years. So if you have a few minutes, think about the following more fleshed-out agenda and maybe talk with colleagues about how we can create an experience that really celebrates Solano and our students.

- a) Part 1. A discussion of what might be holding faculty and students back from fully participating in graduation.
- b) Part 2. Brainstorm possible ways to shift from an "opt-in" to an "opt-out" model of graduation participation (meaning, if you do nothing, it's easier to end up at graduation than not to) and how to pull faculty and students into the planning and preparation process for a big graduation celebration
- c) Part 3. Consider different ways the various schools/departments/areas can support graduation (e.g. hosting a bbq, sponsoring a jump-house and face painting for kids, photo booths, art opportunities, music, etc). Once we've brainstormed what we'd like to see included, deans and senators could bring this back to the division/school meetings the next day to see if certain schools would sign up for certain aspects of this larger graduation support.

It is very important to emphasize this larger planning process should not fall on the shoulders of staff in Student Services. If we, as Senate and deans, brainstorm additional aspects of the graduation celebration, then it will be our responsibility to plan and execute this. But let's not let that stop us as we vision big!

Also, I want to acknowledge that we will have a few representatives from ASSC planning to attend as well, so we have a wonderful opportunity to collaborate in this discussion with faculty, administrators, and student leadership.

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