Special Faculty Roles at Commencement

There are several special roles faculty members fulfill during the university’s commencement ceremonies each winter and spring. This resource provides an overview of these special roles as well as a brief description of role responsibilities and functions.

Grand Marshal
This faculty member is nominated by the Dean and must then be approved by the Provost. This is typically a senior and well respected faculty member within the college. This person starts and concludes the ceremony, being the first one to process in and out.

VIP Marshals
VIP marshals lead the President’s Party (stage party) on and off the stage during the ceremonies. Frequently, retiring faculty are chosen for this honor.

Faculty Marshals
Faculty marshals will lead the faculty in and out of the ceremony. Typically, the Lead Marshal serves as one of the Faculty Marshals.

Student Marshals
Student marshals lead the undergraduate and graduate students into the ceremony, direct them on and off the stage to receive their scrolls, and lead them out during the recessional.

Readers
Readers are responsible for reading the names of each student from their respective college.

Name Card Presenters
Name care presenters serve by handing the name cards to the readers as the students step onto the stage to get their scrolls.