

**A Faculty Senate  
RESOLUTION  
Related to Dividing Commencement Ceremonies  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Nacogdoches, Texas  
11 April 2012**

**Whereas** the graduation ceremony signifies accomplishments only a select few achieve;

**Whereas** the graduation ceremony is considered a historical and dignified event;

**Whereas** the number of graduates and visitors is increasing;

**Whereas** the numbers of graduates and visitors may exceed the coliseum's seating capacity of 5,838;

**Whereas** the increasing number of graduates and visitors in the coliseum impacts the safety of the ceremony;

**Whereas** the increasing number of graduates and visitors impact parking availability as well as the safety of all;

**Whereas** the University has accommodations to serve as alternative graduation sites;

**Whereas** dividing the commencement ceremony causes little to no additional cost to the University;

**Whereas** many universities have divided graduation ceremonies that have become a standard;

**Whereas** dividing the commencement ceremony may enhance the dignity and memory of the event for the graduates and visitors;

**The following resolutions are suggested:**

The 2011-2012 Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University recommends that the current graduation procedures are divided amongst the Colleges to ensure the safety and welfare of all in that the number of attendees may well surpass the capacity seating of the coliseum.

The 2011-2012 Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University recommends that the current graduation procedures are divided to ensure that the dignity and decorum of the commencement ceremony remain intact.

The 2011-2012 Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University recommends that the current graduation procedures are divided amongst the Colleges due to available alternative accommodations on the campus and would pose no additional costs.

The 2011-2012 Faculty Senate of Stephen F. Austin State University recommends that by arranging additional graduation ceremonies parking issues, safety concerns, and inappropriate behaviors at the event will be alleviated and graduation will again be a memorable and solemn occasion.