

The University of Iowa

Traditions, Rituals & Ceremonies

Final Report

Student Success Team Subcommittee Report
on Healthy Traditions

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Committee on Traditions, Rituals and Ceremonies

I. Committee Membership

Cassandra Boehmer, Andy Cinoman, Anne Gannaway, Diane Graber, Sarah Hansen, Jennifer Joslin, Kelly Jo Karnes (co-chair), Belinda Marner, Geb Thomas, and Mary Trachsel (co-chair).

II. Introduction

Charge of Opportunities for Student Engagement Committee: The committee will develop a plan to create and implement traditions, rituals, and ceremonies to foster and support student success (e.g., Opening Convocation, celebration of completion of first year/rising sophomores, and so on).

In conducting its work, the committee will use the SST's definition of student success at the University of Iowa:

University of Iowa students succeed when they achieve personal and institutional educational goals. Successful students develop skills and knowledge, become more mature in their thinking, assume greater responsibility for their own lives and learning, develop understanding of diversity and multiculturalism, and become effective leaders.

Student success at The University of Iowa is a shared enterprise. Students succeed by active engagement in educationally-purposeful activities. Faculty, staff, and students create formal and informal learning opportunities on campus and off, and policies, programs, and practices that foster student engagement.

The University measures student and institutional success in undergraduate education by examining a variety of indicators, including measures of learning, persistence, graduation, engagement, health and well-being, and opportunities after graduation.

- i. The committee formed and began by identifying all of the Iowa traditions that were currently occurring or had previously happened on campus. The list of those traditions has been included with this report.
- ii. Following the identification of Iowa traditions, the committee focused their efforts on identifying traditions, events, customs and ceremonies on other college campuses.
- iii. Following the collection of this data, two ideas have emerged. The following are the two tasks of the committees:
 - a. Identify and compile a list of the "Top 25/50/47 Things to do While at the University of Iowa".
 - b. Recommend new traditions to be implemented or renew past traditions.

III. Tasks and recommendations of the committee:

Task 1: “Top 25/50/47 Things to Do While at the University of Iowa”

The committee set forth to interview various students on campus to gain their thoughts on what all Hawkeyes should do or experience before they leave the campus. This is the top “47” (based on the founding date of 1847) things that were compiled.

- Learn the Iowa Fight Song and Alma Mater
- Feed the ducks behind the IMU
- Buy a “Big Turkey Leg” from Chuck before the Iowa football game
- Get involved! Join a student organization...or start one yourself!
- See the giant sloth at the Natural History Museum in MacBride Hall
- Get to know one of your professors or advisors really well
- Participate in or attend the Homecoming Parade
- Get lost by taking the “wrong” Cambus – see where it will take you
- Get your picture with Herky and give him a “high five”
- Take a class that interests you, even if it’s not in your major
- Visit all four of the Cultural Centers on campus
- Touch the statue of Nile Kinnick for good luck on your way into Kinnick Stadium
- See the giant Jackson Pollock painting at the UI Museum of Art
- Take in a “Fest” – Arts Festival, Jazz Festival, RiverFest, Shakespeare Festival, Cultural Festival, Iowa Pride, etc.
- See a movie in the Bijou Theater
- Study in all 11 libraries on campus at some point
- Study abroad
- Attend “No Shame” Theater
- Kiss someone on the steps of the Old Capitol
- Attend a University Theatre event
- VOLUNTEER...get involved with Dance Marathon, The 10K Show or another service-based organization
- Go to a concert put on by SCOPE, Hancher Auditorium, Clapp Recital Hall, etc.
- Visit the Raptor Center at McBride
- Play pool at the Hawkeye in the IMU
- Join in a pick-up game of flag football or frisbee at Hubbard Park
- Wear an Iowa shirt while away from the State
- Study or take a nap on the Pentacrest

- Find a coffee shop you like and make it your own
- Attend a University Lecture Committee lecture
- Live in the residence halls
- Participate in a fraternity or sorority philanthropy event
- Go to the pre-game pep rally at the Rec Building with the UI Marching Band before home football games
- Attend a Campus Activities Board (CAB) comedian or movie night
- Visit the inside of the Old Capitol
- Play an intramural sport
- Experience a cultural event...Gusto Latino, Dwali, etc.
- Invite your family to campus for Family Weekend
- Attend another Hawkeye sporting event, other than football
- Visit a variety of churches in town, no matter what your religion
- Take a picture on the Old Capitol steps in your cap and gown
- Read a book or article that a professor recommends, even though it isn't "required"
- Get your picture taken with UI President Sally Mason
- Vote in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) election
- Visit a professor during their office hours
- Run or Walk in RiverRun
- Visit the Hall of Fame Museum
- Graduate!

It was suggested to also include area "local" Iowa City places to visit. This list has become "The "18" Things to Do in Iowa City While at the University of Iowa". The 18 and the 47 together make up the founding year ("1847") of the University.

- Go to a reading at Prairie Lights bookstore
- Buy a grilled cheese sandwich from Marco's on the Ped Mall
- Go to the Farmer's Market to buy fresh food
- Have breakfast at The Hamburg Inn
- Go for \$1.50 pizza slices at The Airliner
- Order Pokey Stix from Gumby's late one night
- Get ice cream at Whitey's
- Watch dough being tossed in the front window of Pagliai's Pizza
- Ride the merry go round at City Park
- Visit Coral Ridge Mall (2nd largest mall in Iowa!)
- Run through the fountain in the Ped Mall

- Visit the Black Angel at Oakland Cemetery
- Go swimming at Lake MacBride
- Have a malt at Pearson's Fountain
- Layout/go boating at "The Res" (Coralville Reservoir)
- Find a favorite "cheap wings" night in town
- Take a road trip to small towns in Iowa (Amana Colonies, Kalona, etc.) or if you are from an Iowa small town, road trip to Chicago
- Enjoy the Summer Friday Night Concert Series in the Ped Mall

Ways to use this list:

- Create a "downloadable" poster that would be available for any student, faculty, staff or alumni to print off of our traditions website.
- Create a poster that could be placed in each residence hall room for new students to campus.
- Hand out this list at all Orientation summer sessions or at "Camp Herky" program.
- Hand out during Admissions "Black & Gold" Visit Days.
- Use excerpts from the list in both Admissions & Orientation publications and websites.
- Create t-shirts with the top "10" things to do before you leave. These could be the shirt that all new freshmen receive (see below).
- Create a poster that could be placed in all University offices and faculty/staff offices.
- Hand out the list to all of the participants at the "President's Residence" event (see below) or at any event where traditions are taught or spoke about.

Financial Implications?: YES

- There may be staff time required for design of poster or changes to websites and publications
- There will be printing costs for posters for events and programs.

Task 2: Recommendations of new traditions or past traditions to be renewed

- i. Freshman T-shirt Program – in an effort to welcome and unify our "newest Hawkeyes" to the university, we recommend that every new, first year student receive the same t-shirt during Welcome Week. The shirt can teach traditions, can distinguish their class standing (i.e. Class of 2012) and be a unifying article for each new student.
 - We recommend the distribution of the t-shirt occur at one time; not over a period of days.
 - We recommend that when provided the shirt, the students are taught UI traditions (fight song, alma mater, history of Herky, etc.). Possible at a "Traditions Night" type of event (see below).

- We recommend that the t-shirt reflect the University of Iowa appropriately and be kept in the traditional colors of the University.

Financial Implications?: YES

- There will be a cost per shirt per student (\$5.00 per shirt x 3,000 = \$15,000)
- There may be costs associated with an event to teach the traditions (rental of location, sound equipment, etc).

ii. Infusion of the Alma Mater and Fight Song into all University Programs and Events – Most students, faculty, staff and alumni are familiar with the Fight Song. In an effort to allow everyone to be as familiar with the Alma Mater and to bring attention to this song’s importance to the University, it should be used as often as the Fight Song.

- We recommend that the Alma Mater and Fight Song continue to be used by Admissions in all of their new videos, publications (printing of the words) and recruiting efforts.
- We recommend the Alma Mater and Fight Song be staples at any University event where it is appropriate (sporting events, graduation ceremonies, Homecoming, Welcome Week, etc.)
- We recommend that the Alma Mater and Fight Song be used by Orientation in all of their new videos, publications (printing of the words) and during the summer programs. Our newest Hawkeyes to campus should learn BOTH of these right away.

Financial Implications?: Possibly

- There may be costs associated with creating new videos and publications. Those may be new each year, so we would ask that the alma mater and fight song be used in the newest created pieces.

iii. Official Opening to the Classes Each Semester by the President – A renewed tradition we recommend is that of the University President opening each semester on the first day of classes with the ringing of the Old Capitol bell.

- We recommend that this occur on the first day of class for the Fall and Spring semesters.
- We recommend the University Relations office publicize this event and encourage a small “ceremony” to begin the semester.
- We recommend the University President select a student (new Hawkeye, UISG President, etc.) to help with this opening ceremony.

Financial Implications?: None

- iv. Welcome Convocation – in an effort to welcome back all students through a formal ceremony, we would recommend a Welcome Convocation ceremony to occur during Welcome Week.
- We recommend that a Convocation ceremony be held for all incoming students and be open to any returning students.
 - We recommend that the faculty be included in the event (almost like a “reverse graduation ceremony”...with full faculty processional and regalia).
 - We recommend the Student Body President offering a welcome to the newest students.
 - We recommend a motivational speaker to challenge and inspire our new Hawkeyes.

Financial Implications?: Yes

- There will be a rental cost of a facility large enough to hold all of the new students, faculty and guests.
- Cost of an outside speaker for the event.
- There will be costs of any programs or handouts to the students at the event.

- v. Creation of a “Traditions” page on the University homepage – In an effort to allow current and prospective students, alumni, faculty, and staff the opportunity to always know and learn about the Iowa traditions, we would recommend that we create a comprehensive page about University of Iowa Traditions.

- We recommend that this page include a comprehensive list of traditions, including the “Top 47 Things to do While at the University of Iowa”.
- Have a downloadable poster/checklist for students, faculty, staff and alumni to print off and check off their progress through the entire list.
- We recommend that this page be linked to both the Admissions and Orientation websites.
- We recommend that the page include the words and a downloadable MP3 version of the Fight Song and the Alma Mater. We want students, faculty, staff and alumni to be able to add these songs to their MP3 and Ipod players.
- This site should also include the history of Herky, the official University colors, logos and history.

Financial Implications?: Yes

- There will be design cost and staff time to create the page.
- There may be a cost associated with providing a good downloadable MP3 copy of both the Fight Song and Alma Mater.

- vi. Traditions Night at the President’s Residence – In an effort to teach every Iowa student the traditions and history of the institution, we recommend instituting an event to disseminate this information to students and instill institutional pride.

We recommend the event occur in the Fall semester and during the Welcome Week of events.

- We recommend teaching the Alma Mater, Fight Song, history of Herky and any other pertinent healthy traditions to the students.
- We recommend distributing the “Top 47 Things to Do While at the University of Iowa” information at this event in the form of a poster that students could post and check off as they complete items.
- We recommend this event be held at the President’s Residence to encourage students to feel connected to the institution and to offer them the opportunity to meet the University President.
- We recommend distributing Iowa t-shirts (possibly the “Top 10 Things to Do While at the University of Iowa” t-shirts).

Financial Implications?: Yes

- There may be a cost associated with printing the “Top 47 Things to Do While at the University of Iowa”.
- There may be a cost associated with the event being held at the President’s Residence (cost to block of the street, parking costs, etc.).
- Advertisement/invitation costs to invite the students to this event.
- If the event were to include food or any other giveaways, there will be expenses.

University of Iowa Traditions and Ceremonies

Current and Past

Based on conversations, research and memory, the committee was able to compile a small list of current and past traditions from Iowa.

- Currier Hall Formal Dinner
- Dance Marathon
- The 10,000 Hours Show
- Scottish Highlanders performance at events and programs
- Welcome Week or Week of Welcome
- “Opening Day Ceremony” – would occur on the first day of classes on the Penacrest
- University’s Birthday/Founder’s Day
- Music Department’s last day of Fall Classes Tuba performance on the Penacrest
- Old Gold or Black & Gold Singers
- “Cocoa & Carols”
- RiverFest
- RiverRun
- Fight Song, Alma Mater and other music related to UI
- Finkbine Dinner and Awards
- The Hawkeye Leadership Awards
- Homecoming Events (parade, Follies, floats, pep rally, concert) and buttons
- Corn Monuments – through the College of Engineering
- 10,000 Hours Show of Eastern Iowa
- Brain Derby (1930’s/40’s)
- College of Business – use to provide black “I” pins to graduates
- MBA program provided paperweights for graduates
- College of Arts and Sciences give graduates diploma covers
- Events surrounding and the history of the Penacrest
- Traditions in the Residence Hall (need to learn more)
- Family Weekend
- Homecoming King & Queen
- Honors Week (April)
- Cultural Centers

- WRAC
- Writer's Workshops
- University Lecture Series
- "No Shame" Theatre - \$1 performances on Friday/Saturday nights
- Madrigal Dinner
- Danforth Chapel
- Ringing of the Old Capital bell
- The Dolphin Show – annual water pageant with a Queen and attendants
- Homecoming Dance
- Winter Formal & the crowning of Miss SUI (??)
- Spinster's Spree – an event on campus where the women would ask men to be their dates (Sadie Hawkins Dance)
- Most Eligible Bachelor on Campus (MEBOC)
- Junior King & Queen
- The Sophomore Cotillion
- All University Christmas Formal
- Currier Sweetheart Dance
- Miss U of I Pageant
- Writer's Workshop Formal Prom
- Burge Market Valentine's Day event – make a reservation and bring a date to the Burge Market for Valentine's Day.
- Oldest Writing Center on a college campus
- Rolling Calvin Hall from the Penacrest to its current location across the street
- Jackson Pollack painting at the Art Museum
- Admission of men and women on equal basis – one of the first colleges/universities to do so.