



Commencement Town Hall



**Joan Ferrini-Mundy
President**

March 3, 2021

Thanks for your suggestions!

- The University of Maine Commencement Committee has been meeting since July 2020 to explore commencement options for the May 2020 and May 2021 graduates.
- After receiving campus and community feedback through various mechanisms, the committee has explored alternative options, attempting to incorporate the suggestions while staying in compliance with civil, health and safety guidance.

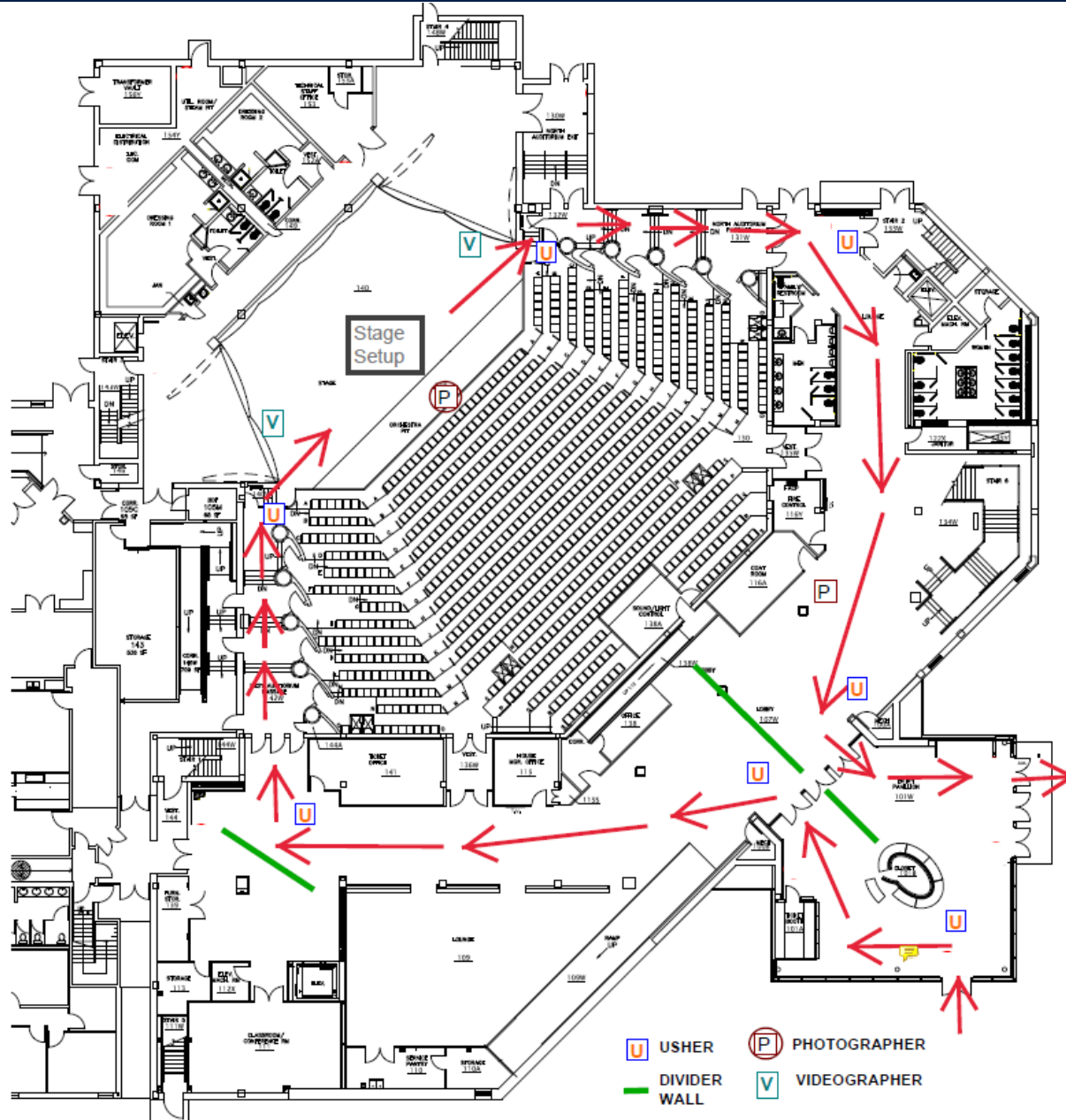


- **A hybrid commencement experience** that would include virtual commencement ceremonies broadcast on May 7 (Graduate students) and May 8 (Undergraduate students) for public viewing.
 - **Traditional commencement ceremony elements** (speeches, music, etc.).
 - **Student recognition week** would be celebrated in a manner similar to last year with highlights of honored faculty and students and special departmental and programmatic celebratory ceremonies/observances released each day.



- **A hybrid commencement experience** that would include virtual commencement ceremonies broadcast on May 7 (Graduate students) and May 8 (Undergraduate students) for public viewing.
 - **An in-person commencement experience** that allows graduates (May 2020 and May 2021) to process across the stage, retrieve their diplomas, have their names announced and have their photographs taken, that complies with civil, health and safety guidance. **No audience or guests will be permitted.**
 - This experience would be captured on video and the footage would be incorporated into the virtual commencement ceremony.
 - Graduates who are unable to participate in the in-person experience will have opportunity to participate through an alternative virtual mechanism.
 - The Graduate School will work with colleges and individual graduate programs to facilitate and provide zoom hooding celebrations.

Committee Plan Details



- **Small college gatherings** for students on MLK Plaza as an additional opportunity to recognize their accomplishments in an in-person walkthrough event that complies with civil, health and safety guidance **No audience or guests will be permitted.**
 - Upon leaving the CCA, graduates will be directed towards MLK Plaza where tents and tables will be set up to allow for physically distanced recognition from their faculty.
 - A projector will be set up to allow for slideshows to run from college communicators.

We need your feedback!

- Respond to the Commencement Survey
 - The committee will survey students to determine their intent to be on campus to participate for appropriate preparation and planning.
- Participate in the Graduation Pact
- Look for updates on the commencement website
 - <https://umaine.edu/commencement/>

Question and Suggestions

