MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Deans, Division/Department Heads, Faculty and Staff

FROM: Felecia M. Nave, Ph.D. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs


March 23, 2015

Congratulations to our Spring 2015 degree completers! What a wonderful accomplishment they can share with their family and friends. Commencement exercises for the degree candidates in the Graduate School will be Friday, May 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the William J. "Billy" Nicks, Sr. Health & Physical Education Building. Candidates are advised to report at 5:00 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. Commencement Convocation. The processional will begin promptly at 5:45 p.m.

Commencement exercises for the degree candidates in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, School of Architecture, the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, and the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the William J. "Billy" Nicks, Sr. Health & Physical Education Building. Candidates are advised to report at 8:00 a.m. for the 9:00 a.m. Commencement Convocation. The processional will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.

Commencement exercises for the degree candidates in the College of Business, Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and College of Nursing will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the William J. "Billy" Nicks, Sr. Health & Physical Education Building. Candidates are advised to report at 12:00 Noon for the 1:00 p.m. Commencement Convocation. The processional will begin promptly at 12:45 p.m.

Please arrive early because parking this Spring will be a challenge due to the construction of the new PVAMU football stadium. Unfortunately, parking near the "Baby Dome" will not be possible. For elderly family members and anyone with special needs, please notify the parking assistants and traffic police. They will provide support by allowing cars to drop off family members near the tunnel entrance of the "Baby Dome." Therefore, it is very important to arrive early.

Faculty members are encouraged to participate in both ceremonies, but they are expected to participate in the ceremonies that candidates in the faculty member’s school or college will be awarded degrees. Faculty are to adorn full regalia and march in the processional, which will form on the north side of the Fieldhouse at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015 and at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon, respectively, on Saturday, May 16, 2015. The processions will begin promptly at 5:45 p.m. (Friday), 8:45 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. (Saturday). Late arrivals may not be allowed to participate!!

The speaker for both exercises will be Dr. George C. Wright, President of Prairie View A&M University. Dr. George C. Wright received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from the University of Kentucky and his doctorate in history from Duke University. In 2004, Dr. Wright was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of Kentucky.

His teaching experience began in 1977 as an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. In 1980, he began teaching at the University of Texas at Austin where he would eventually become a full professor and the holder of the Mastin Gentry White Professorship of Southern History. After his first year at UT, he

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was voted one of the 10 best faculty every year on the annual list of the 10 Best and 10 Worst faculty. He received the top teaching award in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence, and the top teaching award for the entire university which was the Lillian and Tom B. Rhodes Centennial Teaching Fellow which carried a $10,000 prize. In 1993, he joined the faculty at Duke University and served as vice provost for undergraduate programs and director of the Afro-American studies program. He held the William R. Kenan, Jr., Chair in American history.

Since 1986, Dr. Wright has held a number of administrative positions and prior to joining the Prairie View A&M University family, Dr. Wright was Provost and Executive Vice-President for academic affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington.

To his credit, Dr. Wright has authored three books on race relations and numerous scholarly publications and been the recipient of numerous fellowships, grants and awards. The Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellowship earned him a year at Harvard University to conduct research.

Dr. Wright is married to Valerie Ellison Wright, a journalist, and together they had two children, Rebecca Ellison Wright and William Benjamin Wright.