Commencement Committee Minutes
January 29, 1998

The Commencement Committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. Members present were President Patton, Evelyn Babey, Carolyn Crutchfield, Gayla Domke, Penny Hallock, Dan Hammond, Richard Lakes, Larry Rifkind, Roger Weed and Thomas Conway (ACE Fellow).

President Patton commented on the continuing challenge of securing commencement speakers. Jim Lewis, Head of Golden Key (an international honorary) and a Georgia State graduate, will speak in June at both ceremonies. Sherm Day will give his "last lecture" as our commencement speaker sometime in the future. Others on the list for consideration are Mark O'Connell, United Way; Don Greene or Ingrid Saunders Jones, Coca-Cola Foundation. Various TV personalities were suggested. E-mailed suggestions to Dr. Patton would be welcomed.

The December ceremony was discussed. The use of tickets went smoothly. The music was not as good as usual and a practice was recommended for the group. It was noted that faculty from the College of Business Administration had not been well represented and that more should attend. Dr. Patton will add to the ceremony the moving of the tassel of all undergraduates after their degrees have been awarded. Approximately 42% of those initially applying for graduation in December did not graduate. Diplomas must be ordered and then must be reordered when the student reapplies at another date, and this is costly. It was recommended that students pay the fee each time they apply. Regarding the mini-diplomas which are given to each graduate, students will be surveyed for their opinions.

The Regents allow one honorary degree to be awarded each year. Those nominated earlier were Franklin Garrett, Scott Seydell and Pat Thomas. President Bedie of the Ivory Coast was discussed, but he will not be in the country at the time of a ceremony and one must be present to receive the honorary degree. (Dr. Patton will present a presidential medallion to him at the time of his visit in May.) Other names discussed were Bill Usery, former Secretary of Labor under President Ford; Monsignor Kiernan, who received many letters of support; Dr. Lida K. Barrett, mathematician; and President Demirel of Turkey. Dr. Crutchfield recommended sending Franklin Garrett's name to the Regents for approval and the Committee agreed. If two names are allowed, Monsignor Kiernan will also be recommended to the Regents.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances B. Stone