The meeting of the Commencement Committee was held on Thursday, September 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Members present were President Patton, Evelyn Babey, Carolyn Crutchfield, Errol Danley, Gayla Domke, Jamey Forehand, Kurt Keppler, Penny Hallock, Ritu Lohtia, Ed Miles, Shannon Mosher, Larry Rifkind, Roger Weed. Ron Greene, Registrar's Office, was a visitor.

Dr. Patton commented that Georgia State has had thirteen commencements in two years. The university has no funds available for speaker fees, and some of the most well known national speakers command thousands of dollars in fees. Please continue to make suggestions to President Patton for his running list of speakers. Governor Barnes spoke at the August ceremony. One recommendation was Lyle Dennison, Supreme Court reporter. Some of the honorary degree nominees would be excellent speakers. Sherm Day has not been able to schedule a time to speak yet, but he will do so sometime in the future.

The ceremony in August went very well, but it always needs to be reviewed to keep it crisp. Dr. Patton receives many compliments on the ceremony from parents and other guests. There was a problem with the Ph.D. special guest seating area since the ushers were late and therefore could not direct people. August is a difficult time since the students are not active at the time of graduation, so there are not many available. The noise level has improved since the degrees have been awarded to B.A./B.S. students last. Tickets are given to make the attendance fair so that every graduate can have some family or friends attend. The possible convocation center being discussed would seat 8,000 - 9,000 people, so more tickets could be given to each graduate.

Diplomas have been printed on the largest paper stock possible, given the current technology. The Registrar's Office continues to research this topic. The Senate committee APACE has recommended that the fall ceremony be held immediately after classes end in December, but that the real diplomas would not be given at that time. Historically the university has always given real diplomas at the ceremony. Now there are not enough days between the end of the semester and the ceremony to have the diplomas ready. The process includes getting all the grades, processing and clearing students to graduate. Only students cleared to graduate would participate in the ceremony, as is done currently. Following the semester switch, faculty were asked to do graduating students earlier than others. In some cases that has not happened. Dr. Keppler stated that the tradition of having graduation immediately after the semester ends should be maintained, and the real diplomas would be mailed soon after. Errol Danley stated that the students care more about having family attend than receiving the real diploma at the ceremony. The cost of mailing the diplomas would add about $2.00 to the graduation fee. Mike Moore, I.R., is doing a telephone survey and this information should be available soon. It will be important to communicate clearly once the decision is made. Larry Rifkind moved that the Committee defer to Dr. Patton on this decision. The motion was seconded by Dr. Domke and passed unanimously. Dr. Rifkind stated that he would prefer to have the real diplomas awarded at the ceremony at it's usual time, but if that's not possible, he would support delaying commencement.

Honorary degree nominations were discussed. Bill Usery had been nominated last year and supported by the committee, but the nomination was delayed since Mr. Usery was making a decision about a gift to the university and we did not want to seem like we were trying to influence his decision. Dr. Patton brought back to the committee the recommendation. Dr. Weed moved that this be forwarded to the Chancellor's Office for approval and Dr. Keppler seconded this motion which was unanimously approved. Dr. Patton asked for additional nominations for the future.

The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by,
Frances B. Stone