The meeting of the Commencement Committee was held on Thursday, October 25th at 11:00 a.m. Members present were: President Patton, Gayla Domke, Erin Erskine, Charles Gilbreath, Catherine McGovern, Ed Miles, Larry Rifkind, and Sue Seago. Paulette Smart, of Auxiliary Services, also attended.

It was reported that, as of this date, there will be 1,226 graduates participating in December ceremonies, with 650 in the morning and 595 in the afternoon. Clear directions should be posted showing how to go from parking, such as in G-deck, to the Athletic Arena. The ceremony will be held on a week day (Monday), therefore getting extra people to help with directing visitors, as well as in the venue, should be easier than some times. Barriers on Decatur Street, to help keep pedestrians from crossing at random, were discussed and University Police will be contacted about this. There will be a special lunch held between ceremonies. The photography at the ceremony will be the same as before. Speaking at the morning ceremony will be Dr. Jeff Koplan, Director of CDC. The afternoon speaker will be Bonnie Phipps, head of Promina Health Care System, and a GSU graduate. Speakers are needed for the May ceremonies. We will continue with the theme of health and science, when possible. President Patton reminded the group that no payment is made to our speakers. Suggestions for possible speakers are always welcome.

Honorary degrees awarded by Georgia State are considered for nominees who have both close ties to the university and have contributed to the university in many ways, including being actively involved over the years. Nominees considered at this meeting were (1) Helen and John Aderhold - she has been a very active alum for many years and John is a major donor to the university and has made important contributions to the redevelopment of downtown Atlanta; (2) Bill Dahlberg - a distinguished alum and involved in running our capital campaign as well as the campaign for the Rialto; (3) Ben Johnson - founding Dean of the College of Law, and has devoted himself to service to the state throughout his life; (4) Khalil Johnson, General Manager of the Georgia Dome and involved with the GSU Sports Administration program; (5) Mary Rose Taylor, founder and director of Margaret Mitchell House, and long-time active community volunteer. Following the discussion, it was decided that Dr. Patton will send three names to the Regents for approval this time, the Aderholds for December and Ben Johnson for May or August, which would be in conjunction with the College of Law's 20th anniversary. The committee was asked to continue submitting names for consideration.

The committee next discussed regalia. Paulette Smart, of Auxiliary Services, stated that Georgia State is the only university with our exact color combination in the regalia, so any vendor will require a long-term commitment. The issue of vendor service, as well as quality of the universities, it was reported that they are all selling the robes to graduates rather than renting and this is separate from the graduation fee. Georgia and Georgia Tech both sell through their bookstores. It was reported that the quality and price of the Herb Jones gowns were best. Dr. Patton asked that the students be informed well in advance that this will be done, and that it will not be done until the next December graduation. Meanwhile, the current rental contract can be extended until the new play is finalized.

Submitted by,
Frances B. Stone