The spring semester meeting of the Commencement Committee was held on Wednesday, February 19\textsuperscript{th} at 9:00 a.m. Those attending were: President Patton, Gayle Christian, Anne Emanuel, Erin Erskine, Eric Le Calvez, Zhongshan Li, Peter Lyons, Al McWilliams, Tom Netzel, Marcia Pearl, Cherise Peters, Christopher Robertson, Larry Rifkind, Sue Seago, and Marti Singer.

The first item of business was discussed of speakers for commencement. Dr. Patton commented that it is a challenge to find speakers since we do not offer any payment for speakers. People considered usually have a relationship with Georgia State. For the three ceremonies in May, the speakers will be Jim Copeland for the Robinson College of Business, Sam Zamarippa for the College of Arts and Sciences, and Linda DiSantis for the 6:00 p.m. ceremony. Others who have been suggested for the future are Cathy Ashe and Doug Teeper, both alums. Please continue to make suggestions, which may be e-mailed to Dr. Patton.

The ceremony was reviewed. This May will be the first time there have been three commencement ceremonies held. It was estimated that approximately 56 volunteers with a coordinator and supervisor will be needed for May. There was a problem with the sound system in December, and Media Resources says that will be fixed. Someone must be assigned to deal with any sound problems that may come up during the ceremony. It was suggested that there be a “command central” established for that day. Erin Erskine will have her cell phone and can be contacted. The number of graduates expected and the number of tickets was discussed. It was decided to keep the number at 4 tickets per graduate participating. The number of Arts & Sciences graduates makes 4 tickets the maximum allowable since currently they have 867 students marching. (At 4 each, the ideal marching number would be 825.) Extra tickets will be available as usual. The number of “no shows” has increased from an average of 30 to 100. Some students stay on the list, never planning to march, in order to get tickets that they then sell to others. There is a problem with people saving seats in the audience. The tickets state that this not allowed. Due to some counterfeiting of tickets it is necessary to go to the use of a hologram. In the future, use if bar code scanning may be considered.

The letter that is given to students at the ceremony is being updated, including the information about when they will receive their diplomas. This letter could be something that is attractive and that a student would want to save. The letter must be ready by March 10\textsuperscript{th} in order to have it printed, rolled, and ribboned. The rain plan is in place. Dr. Patton suggested that all members of the Commencement Committee should attend a ceremony if they have not done so before. He also reminded the Committee that Sue Seago will be retiring from Georgia State after this May, and he thanked her for her excellent oversight of graduation and service to the university.

The call for nominations of honorary degrees will go out in a letter in the fall. Georgia State is allowed to award one or two each year, following approval by the Board of Regents. The Committee supported recommending Ken Lewis, an alum, President of the Bank of America who has helped and served Georgia State.

Submitted by,

Frances B. Stone