Commencement Committee Minutes
September 2, 2004

The fall semester meeting of the Commencement Committee was held on September 2, 2004. Those attending were: President Patton, Julie Ancis, Erin Erskine, Lakeisha Jordan, Rita Lohtia, Ed Miles, San Miller, and John Peterson. The minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2004 were approved.

The role of the Commencement Committee is to make sure that the students graduating are happy, to provide names of potential speakers, consider honorary degree nominations and make a determination about tickets. Dr. Patton asked for the committee members to e-mail to him names of suggested commencement speakers. David Ratcliffe will speak next year. Phil Jacobs will be asked, but no time has been confirmed. Other suggestions were: Andy Young, President Carter, Bernie Marcus, Bob Nardelli, Congressman John Lewis, Frank Blount, and Rick Lenny. Also, generally, someone from TIAA-CREF who is an alum, Arts & Sciences alumni, and speakers from legal areas. Erin Erskine will e-mail the commencement dates to committee members.

Concerning the ceremony, the number of faculty attending is uncertain. With a more accurate count, the necessary number of seats could be saved. Also, faculty need to be encouraged to attend. Reviewing the ceremony, it was noted that both faculty and staff have called the names of the graduates. Others might be willing to call names if there were fewer names to call, so possibly splitting the duty between two people could be done sometimes.

The call for nominations for honorary degrees goes out every fall to the campus. Names to be considered are brought to the Commencement Committee, then the one or ones selected are sent by Dr. Patton to the Regents for approval. A maximum of two honorary degrees per year may be awarded.

Discussion of the Senior Class Gift Recognition followed. Giving history was reviewed. It was suggested, moved and seconded that in addition to the tassel, a pin for permanent recognition would be appropriate. The motion was approved by the committee.

Submitted by
Frances B. Stone