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University Commencement Committee Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2012

University Commencement Committee

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Minutes

University Commencement Committee

October 10, 2012

The University Commencement Committee met on October 10, 2012 in 157 Rike Hall. The following members were present: Doris Johnson (CEHS), Karen Hayes (COLA), Pam Stephenson (CONH), and Joan Lumpkin (RSCOB).

After introductions, the committee discussed the main functions of the committee since three of the attendees are new to the committee. We reviewed the guidelines for honorary degrees since that is the main function.

Neal Gittleman accepted a 2012 Honorary Degree from Wright State at the June graduation. The other recipient also chosen by the committee for 2012 was unable to attend in June and will also be unable to attend the December graduation.

The committee discussed what to do if a selected recipient cannot attend in the year chosen. Do they become ineligible? Should they be considered for an honorary degree during a graduation in later years when they may be able to attend? After some discussion, those present decided if a candidate had been chosen for an honorary degree but was unable to attend in the year chosen they would still be eligible for future honorary degrees. The Commencement Committee could submit that name with supporting documentation to the President of the University and Board of Trustees for final approval. Joan Lumpkin, chair, is going to check if this change needs to be added to the Honorary Degree Procedures and voted on by the Faculty Senate. We will discuss this further in the November meeting and vote on it at that time.

Joan Lumpkin, chair, shared the results of a meeting with Event Services regarding commencement photos. Starting in spring 2013, graduate pictures will be taken by Graduation Foto. There will only be 2 versus 3 photos taken for each graduate. One will be taken with the college dean and a second with the graduate alone. The background of the individual picture can be varied based on a number of options. Based on these changes, the base price is reduced from \$9.95 to \$7.95. With fewer pictures, we hoped to reduce the bottleneck as students return to their seats.

Finally, in preparation for Honorary Degrees in April and December 2013, the committee members are to encourage those in their college to submit a letter of nomination by Monday, November 26, 2012. The letter should outline the contributions of the potential nominee. They should be submitted to Joan Lumpkin, 251 Rike Hall or by email joan.lumpkin@wright.edu.

A tentative meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28 at 11:15AM to review the letters of nomination. The meeting was adjourned.