

**Foundation Governing Board Meeting
Saturday, January 7, 2006
Defender Board Room, Westin Copley Place Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts**

APPROVED

Present: Ray Goldberg, Thomas Hertel, Scott Irwin, Alan Randall, Katherine Smith, Dawn Thilmany, Laurian Unnevehr

Ex-Officio: Yvonne C. Bennett, Executive Director

Guests: Terri Haffner, Marilyn Moehlmann, Tamara Wagester (presentation only)

Absent: Dan Bernardo, Oral Capps, Jr., Matt Holt

Scott Irwin called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

I. Welcome – Scott Irwin welcomed the Foundation Board members and thanked the staff.

II. Approval of minutes – Laurian Unnevehr moved to approve the July 23, 2005, minutes and Kitty seconded. **Motion carried.**

Ratification of September 20, 2005 unanimous e-mail vote concerning the T.W Schultz funding request: “The AAEA Foundation by unanimous electronic vote approved \$1,000 to be used for the 2006 T.W. Schultz Dinner and Keynote Presentation scheduled for January 6, 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts. These funds will be used to pay for travel expenses and small honoraria for the keynote speaker, Gary Becker and come from the unexpended funds allocated for disbursement during 2005.” **Dawn Thilmany moved to ratify the vote, Kitty Smith seconded. Motion carried.**

III. President’s Report – Scott Irwin relayed that Oral Capps expressed regret at not being able to attend the meeting today. Capps said that program committee funding reports, travel grants and McCorkle scholarship, action from development committee and the governance report are the issues that need to be addressed today.

IV. Executive Director Update - Yvonne Bennett provided an update of the previous year. The T.W. Schultz event was a resounding success. Organizers did a fabulous job.

- a. **Financial health** – We are 320 members ahead of this time last year. This has helped tremendously to alleviate our typical fall cash flow problem. Eighty individuals so far have taken advantage of the new three year membership renewal offer. About half of those 80 have been members less than 5-7 years, which is a positive sign.
- b. **Staffing update** – Bennett provided an update of recent staffing changes:
 - Communications Coordinator resigned in December. Position to be reevaluated as a result of current technology audit work being done.
 - Foundation administration – largely being handled by Accounting staff.
 - Meeting planner hired in September.
 - Current staffing level is 8.5 FTE’s vs 8+1 independent contractor previously
 - No plans to hire a professional fundraiser due to financial constraints
- c. **Looking ahead – July Board Meeting** - July 22, 2006 is the tentative date scheduled for the Foundation Board meeting in Long Beach. Agenda enclosures for the meeting are due to the AAEA Business Office no later than June 23, 2006. Board materials are scheduled to be mailed to the Board members on Friday, July 7, 2006.

d. **Thank you** – Bennett thanked the Board and volunteers for all of their hard work this year.

V. **Financial Update** – Marilyn Moehlmann updated the Foundation Board on the financial status of the AAEA Foundation. The balance sheet distributed to the Board reflected a total of \$1,597,906 in assets as of November 30, 2005. The investments as of December 31, 2005 indicated an ending value of \$1,017,686 for the Foundation endowment funds. Moehlmann also reviewed the list of 2005 AAEA Foundation Contributions and the status of 2005 Foundation proposals. Moehlmann distributed a report indicating funds available for 2005 programs. A total amount of \$58,950 was approved for 2005 and as of October 31, 2005, a total of \$46,109 was spent. The Board asked Moehlmann to work on revising future Income Statement reports by combining related categories in order to make the reports more meaningful.

VI. **Program Committee Report** –

a. **Funding Proposals** – Scott Irwin gave a brief overview of the process. Fifteen proposals were received. The Committee members reviewed and ranked the proposals individually, then had a conference call to discuss the results and develop the recommendations included in this packet. Irwin proposed one change to the recommendations. Since the AAEA Student Quiz Bowl Equipment proposal was done, requesting \$3,000-\$6,000, arrangements have been made to provide laptop computers the FAST/Farmdoc project at the University of Illinois. Laptops can be obtained through the project. UIUC would request that a) AAEA provide money to bring a staff person to the meeting, b) AAEA cover theft and damage during the meeting and c) AAEA sign a loan agreement. The amended amount needed for Quiz Bowl laptops is \$1,500.

The total amount of the funded proposals would be \$53,300, including \$12,500 for C-FARE support.

1. The TLC proposal was not approved.
2. The Food Safety and Nutrition Section proposal was well developed, but because the Executive Board is working on setting policy for section awards, the Committee did not think it would be appropriate to fund this award until policy has been set.

The committee asked the Board to accept the slate of proposal recommendations as amended (with the quiz bowl change). Motion carried.

Kitty Smith moved to approve the proposal to grant support of \$25,000 to enable IAAE to support agricultural economists from developing countries who have a paper accepted for presentation at the IAAE conference. Dawn Thilmany seconded. Motion carried

Laurian Unnevehr moved to spend up to \$1,000 to support recognition for travel grants for recipients of the IAAE money and for AAEA travel grant recipients. Kitty Smith seconded. Motion carried. Suggestions for recognition include luggage tags or something similar.

- b. Establishing Funding – 2006 Student Travel Grants. The Board’s position concerning Student Travel Grants is to continue to fund more people with smaller grants.
- c. McCorkle Scholarship – **The Program Committee recommended that the \$2,000 McCorkle Scholarship be awarded to Andrea Woolverton from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Motion carried.**

VII. **Development Committee Report** - Members of the Foundation Development Committee include Kitty Smith, Tom Hertel and Ray Goldberg. The Committee reported that while Appreciation Clubs have been a primary source of funding for the Foundation, the number of newly forming Appreciation Clubs has decreased. The Committee speculates that Universities are not as willing to allow the Foundation to use people’s names because they are also raising money on behalf of that person. We are also competing with professional fundraisers at universities, as universities have become more sophisticated in their fundraising efforts. There was a general discussion of ideas on how AAEA could generate more interest in events such as the Galbraith Forum and Schultz dinner.

Ray Golberg left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Tom Hertel joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Kitty Smith presented the buddy idea from the Development Committee report as a means of raising sponsorship funds. Yvonne Bennett has been working on the package of products that can be sold as part of this project. Bennett handed out an article called "The Sponsorship Package," that gives ideas for raising sponsorship funds and developing long-term relationships with sponsors. Laurian Unnevehr mentioned that the proposal be recommended to Oral Capps, Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Yvonne Bennett as they work on coordinating sponsorship opportunities for 2006.

The Development Committee moved to recommend the buddy proposal as a pilot project subject to its approval by the Foundation and Executive Board presidents. Motion carried.

VIII. AAEA Foundation Governance Task Force Report -

Laurian Unnevehr presented the Foundation Governance Task Force report. She described the rationale for the following proposed constitutional changes:

- a) standing committees usually aren't in the constitution, but the Foundation Endowment Committee was incorporated, and
- b) b) In section 3. Financial – The second sentence, stating that the use of funds will be only for the purposes of the Foundation. Both of the above changes were incorporated into the constitution to give the membership a level of comfort concerning how Foundation funds will be managed.

Unnevehr highlighted in III. Guidelines for a new AAEA Foundation Endowment Committee– that the Committee recommends that the Endowment Committee be composed of three members, including the past-president, an Executive Board member, and a member from the membership at large. During the transition, an additional member of the committee will be chosen from the existing Foundation Board. One of the first tasks of the committee will be to develop a strategic plan concerning fundraising, to be presented to the AAEA Executive Board in the summer of 2007.

Unnevehr presented the process and timeline that the Committee developed to inform the membership and receive a vote from the membership.

The Foundation Board adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and returned from lunch at 1:05 p.m.

IX. C-FARE Oral Report - Tamara Wagester, Executive Director of C-FARE, joined the meeting at 1:10 to give a verbal report. She outlined CFARE's purpose, and what initiatives CFARE is taking for 2006. She thanked the Executive and Foundation Boards for the financial contributions and in-kind support they provide.

Discussion returned to agenda item #VIII, the Foundation Governance Report. The Board discussed the following changes to the Committee's Report:

- a. Proposed Constitution, Section 1. Purpose of the Foundation – the list of ways the Foundation funds are to be used seemed to be drawn from the original Foundation goals, instead of the vision and goals that were adopted by the Foundation Board in January, 2003. It was recommended that goal #2 and 3 from page 6 of the Committee's report be added to the proposed constitutional changes. It was also recommended that the last sentence of the section be reworded according to goal #6 from page 6 of the Committee's report.
- b. III. Guidelines for a new AAEA Foundation Endowment Committee – the Board recommended that the Endowment Committee consist of four people, composed of the AAEA Past-President, one Executive Board member and two members from the general membership.
- c. IV. Suggestions for Member Vote Timing and Procedures – it was recommended that the due date for the Web page and the listserv (message board) be changed from February 1 to February 10, that since the February 10 date for the publishing of the pro and con statements must be 30 days ahead of the vote, that date may need to be revised, since February is a short month. It was also recommended that a meeting of the Foundation Board, with the Endowment Committee present, be scheduled for July 22, 2006.

Tom Hertel moved to support the Foundation Governance task force proposal with suggested changes of a four person Foundation Endowment Committee, and changes in language regarding the purpose of the Foundation in Article 12, section 1 of the constitution. Dawn Thilmany seconded. Motion carried.

X. Kitty Smith moved to adjourn at 2:05 p.m. Alan Randall seconded. Motion carried.