



American Agricultural Economics Association
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**AAEA Executive Board Meeting
Chicago Swissotel – Bellinzona Room
Saturday, January 6, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
APPROVED MINUTES**

Present: Steven T. Buccola, Otto C Doering, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Matthew T. Holt, Helen H. Jensen, Jill J. McCluskey, Alan Randall, Richard Sexton, Spiro E. Stafanou.

Ex-officio: Terri Haffner, Interim Executive Director; Stephen K. Swallow, AJAE Editor; Daniel Pick, RAE Editor.

Not present: Bruce A. McCarl, Choices Editor.

Guests: Marilyn Moehlmann, Darryl Nitsch, Dan Nemec, Dave Baumann, Tamara Wagester, Steve Turner

I Welcome & President's comments

Meeting called to order by Buccola at 8:28 a.m.

II Agenda review and approval

President Steve Buccola welcomed Dave Baumann and Dan Nemec, special guests from Executive Director, Inc. Dave Baumann will be able to stay until 3 p.m. so the agenda was arranged to accommodate his travel. The Board planned to get through the task force and committee discussions on Saturday morning.

Daniel Pick asked if the Board could discuss the teaching editor of RAE. The issue was added to the agenda.

Pinstrup-Andersen moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Doering. **Motion adopted with unanimous vote.**

III Approve Minutes

Enclosure: Draft of 7/21-22/06 minutes
Draft of 10/2/06 minutes
Draft of 11/7/06 minutes and 12/9/06 minutes
EDI contract (attachment to 11/7/06 minutes)
Operating policy changes (attachment to 11/7/06 minutes)

Holt moved to approve all of the above minutes; motion seconded by Stefanou. **Motion adopted with unanimous vote.**

V Executive Director update

Terri Haffner thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Executive Director over the next eight months and assured the Board she would give her best effort.

Haffner provided updates on membership, staffing, ACCI, and AERE.

1. Membership update: as of Jan. 4, 2007, AAEA membership stood at 1,420 compared to YTD 2006 of 1,445.
 - a. Budget/projection for 2007-08
 - i. 2005 actual 2,611 (-4.1%)
 - ii. 2006 actual 2,487 (-4.1%)
 - iii. '07-'08 budget 2,285 (-8%). Budgeted lower figure due to anticipated loss of members due to joint Annual Meeting with WAEA and CAES.
2. Staffing update:
 - a. Gayle Tate will leave AAEA on January 26, 2007.
 - b. Dave Baumann from EDI will discuss staffing strategies as we move forward with the transition of the office operations.
 - c. Extended the separation date for Alice Hushagen in order to offer service for the ACCI conference in April.
3. ACCI
 - a. ACCI issued an RFP for services. They are considering dissolution and a merger with AAEA as a new section. If the Board decides to become an AAEA section, they'll want to continue with current contract through 2007. AAEA would then sub-contract services to Executive Director Inc.
4. AERE
 - a. AERE is interested in continuing with service under the AAEA contract. AAEA would then sub-contract services to EDI. There is no definitive answer to this from AERE or EDI at this time.
5. The summer AAEA Board Meetings are tentatively scheduled for July 27 and 28, 2007.

Holt thanked Haffner on behalf of the Board. Expressed that this is a tough spot for AAEA and the Board appreciated her willingness to step forward.

Buccola formally welcomed Haffner, thanked her for taking this position.

XIV, XV Executive Director, Inc.

Dave Baumann, chief partner at Executive Director Inc and Dan Nemec, EDI Chief Financial Officer, discussed the issues involved with the future and the transition of the office operations of AAEA to EDI in Milwaukee.

1. The plan
 - a. The original scenario has changed since the termination of Yvonne Bennett as AAEA executive director.
 - b. Baumann traveled to meet with Haffner in Ames to detail timelines and other planning.
 - c. Baumann said that one goal is transparency and openness with the members. One of Nitsch's main focus points will be communicating to the members.
2. Staff
 - a. Staff retention could become an issue as Ames staff assesses opportunities that come along.
 - b. EDI has ability to staff up. Will hire a full-time meeting planner soon and an administrative coordinator.
 - c. Current AAEA communications manager, Darryl Nitsch, will officially transition to EDI employment on Feb. 1, 2007.
 - d. In terms of full disclosure EDI has explored some options with Terri Haffner beyond 8 months—in terms of staying on as an EDI employee. If EDI can reach an agreement with Haffner EDI will come back to the Board for approval.
 - e. Holt asked how the executive director search will be conducted.
 - i. EDI's committed to promoting from within the organization. EDI would do an external recruitment—including the Wisconsin Society of Association Executives and the Chicago Society, and the national ASAE. As far as compensation, EDI will consult with Buccola.
3. Technical issues/procedures
 - a. The AAEA database will be transitioned smoothly as EDI and AAEA use the same association management software.
 - b. EDI will also move the ACCI and AERE databases when they move the AAEA database.
 - c. By the end of January the database will be operational in Milwaukee. Ames staff will access information through a remote connection.
 - d. Nemec said the financials are in good shape. Baumann said he would like to see an auditor work with Marilyn for the final audit and then hand off the accounting to EDI.
4. Allied groups
 - a. If our Allied Associations will continue to work in the same framework as they have in the past as a client of AAEA, EDI can accommodate that.
 - b. Buccola indicated AAEA would like to continue to work with these groups.

VI Consent Agenda Items

A. Section By-law Approvals

Enclosures: CENET Section proposed by-laws
CWAE Section proposed by-laws
Extension Section proposed by-laws
FAMPS Section proposed by-laws
FSN Section proposed by-laws

Randall moved to amend McCluskey's motion by shifting the Ahearn proposal to an organized symposium. Doering seconded. Randall withdrew the motion and Doering withdrew the second.

Randall moved to amend McCluskey's motion by shifting the Kimhi proposal to an organized symposium. Doering seconded. **Motion to Amend approved 7 yea, 1 nay.**

The McCluskey motion, as amended, was approved by unanimous vote.

Pre/Post Conference Workshops

Sexton moved to approve the pre- and post-conferences as submitted; motion seconded by McCluskey.

Doering moved to amend and make approval of the Turvey proposal contingent upon funding by January 31, 2007. Motion seconded by Jensen.

Doering moved to amend the amendment: that the Turvey group provide a list of the \$60,000 funding and a list of where the money is coming from. Motion seconded by Jensen. **Amendment approved unanimously.**

Sexton moved to accept entire proposal as amended. Motion seconded by McCluskey. **Motion approved by unanimous vote.**

Track Proposals (Informational only)

Enclosure: Summary of submissions from Sections

The Board received the track proposals submitted by AAEA sections.

AAEA Operating Policies, item VI (E), 1, Board travel reimbursement policy

Enclosure: Recommendation

Proposed amendment to the **AAEA** Operating Policies made by Rich Sexton to: amend the AAEA Operating Policies regarding reimbursements to members of the Executive Board to reflect the following principle—AAEA will reimburse Board members for lodging and subsistence for a time period sufficient for the member to discharge all of his/her official Board responsibilities. In particular, if a Board member is engaged in official duties, such as section liaison duties, into the afternoon or early evening of a given day, the Board will reimburse the member's lodging for that evening.

After Board discussion, Sexton withdrew the proposal.

AAEA Operating Policies, item VI (E), 2, AAEA Senior Membership

Enclosure: Committee Recommendation

Proposal to make the operating policy read: Senior membership is open to individuals, upon written request, who have passed their 65th birthday on or before January 1 of the year for membership dues.

Discussion:

Presenting an amendment to essentially remove the word “retired” out of senior membership and would make dues contingent on the member’s 65th birthday. There was opposition to this proposal, the rationale being that as long as the member is professionally active that person should pay full membership.

After Board discussion, Haffner withdrew the proposal.

IV Proposal from ACCI

Enclosure: ACCI proposal

ACCI is considering either joining AAEEA as a section or remaining a stand alone Association. They request a proposal from AAEEA by mid-January to provide services through 2008. In April 2007 ACCI proposes setting up a joint committee, with two members from each board, to examine the potential of joining AAEEA. They would have a proposal in 2008 with a decision in July on how they would like to proceed.

Board consensus was that ACCI would not fit well into the section structure, but that the Board is interested in defining a different form of affiliation for associations like ACCI.

Doering moved to set up a joint committee with ACCI to explore working with that association in a number of ways and to have a joint meeting. Motion seconded by Stefano. Motion approved unanimously. **Buccola will appoint a Task Force.**

Steve Turner and Tamara Wagester joined the Board meeting at 1:45 p.m.

XIII C-FARE Presentation

Enclosure: C-FARE Activities Report Tamara Wagester

Steve Turner, C-FARE chairman and Tamara Wagester, C-FARE executive director spoke to the board.

Wagester addressed the Board and expressed appreciation to AAEEA for contributions, both financial and through in-kind accounting services. Also appreciative for the three AAEEA appointees on the C-FARE board of directors.

The efforts C-FARE made were seen in involvement with other Washington D.C. organizations. C-FARE has worked hard to create these coalitions and these efforts have paid off. C-FARE partners with: The Coalition for National Science Funding on “Congressional Visits Days”; The National Coalition on Food and Agriculture Research on “Lunch Briefings” and “One Page Research Summaries”; The Coalition on Funding

Agricultural Research Missions on “Congressional Visits Days,” “Letter Campaigns to Congress” and “Briefings.”

In addition, AAEA funds went toward Intern Briefings, the Council Caller newsletter sent to 500 subscribers and Congressional activities. Wagester regularly attended hearings and set up meetings with Congressional staffers to let them know we’re here. C-FARE goes to the agencies and has one-on-one meetings with them.

Buccola asked that C-FARE make a presentation at the Annual Meeting in Portland in July 2007.

Turner stressed that “we’re a David in the town of Goliath.” He recognized that C-FARE is a brand that has been built over the years. We’re now reaping some of the benefits and opportunities that come with brand equity.

Turner and Wagester left the Board meeting after their presentation.

VIII Membership Committee Report

Enclosure: Committee Report Doering/Haffner

Doering discussed the Membership Committee report. Committee members had conducted an informal survey in their home departments. Results indicate that people are fairly comfortable with how the Association is run. There was some feedback that the dues are too high.

In addition, the move to have more posters at our Meetings was a concern. Many departments and governments won’t pay members’ Meeting costs unless they presented at the Annual Meeting. Some are concerned that posters would not carry enough status. The Committee think it is important to sell the value proposition of posters.

More discussion will take place on this at the Board meeting in Portland.

IX Outreach Task Force Report

Enclosures: Task Force Report
E-mail from Henry Bahn
Letter from C-FARE
The Exchange article by Walt Armbruster
NCA-12 resolution

Doering said the first thing his Task Force talked about was the philosophical question of whether AAEA should do outreach and if so, how much to spend on outreach. The Task Force identified primary audiences and secondary audiences for outreach.

Buccola summarized that the Task Force was proposing to continue with *Choices* in some form and that the Association finance at least half of it. Doering proposed at least \$10 per

member be used to fund *Choices*, and the Task Force felt it could find other outside funding and move the electronic piece of the production to a less expensive option.

Board members mentioned that this was being predicated on the discovery of money that is not presently available. In addition, good reasons were invoked for making the decision in July 2006 to de-fund *Choices*.

XII Selected Papers and Selected Posters Task Force Report Stefanou/Haffner
Enclosure: Task Force Charge
Task Force Report

Stefanou presented the Selected Papers and Selected Posters Task Force Report.

XI Annual Meeting Task Force Report Stefanou/Nitsch
Enclosure: Task Force Charge
Task Force Report
Buccola Memo

The number of selected paper sessions is scheduled to be reduced by 25% in Portland, and the number of posters increased to make up the difference. There was strong sentiment that as the number of presented paper opportunities decreases because of space limitations, the board can take the opportunity to increase the value and prominence of poster presentations. The Board will accomplish this by making every effort to create dedicated, attended poster sessions. This decision hinged on the limited availability of space at this Annual Meeting and those in the future.

Buccola would outline the details and send them via e-mail for the Board's approval.

Additions to the agenda:

McCluskey—Board liaison to the Employment Services Committee

McCluskey said the Employment Services Committee would like to have a reception at the summer meetings. This would be an informal event that would be a benefit to the membership. McCluskey and Haffner will discuss further and put it on the agenda for the Spring conference call.

Pick discussed the elimination of the RAE's teaching editor. Joan Fulton sent to him a half page memo to justify the importance of the teaching and learning editor. She felt it was necessary to have an editor who is familiar with that specialty. She strongly recommended retaining the teaching and learning editor.

Motion to continue the teaching-learning editor position for RAE and ask Joan Fulton to continue her service for a two year term was made by Stefanou. Motion seconded by Holt.
Motion approved unanimously.

The AAEA board acknowledged Daniel Pick's service as RAE editor for the past five years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 4:15 p.m.

XVI 2007 Class of AAEA Fellows Selection

Sunday, January 7, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m. Dan Pick and Dave Baumann were not in attendance on the second day.

X Association Name Task Force Report Jensen/Nitsch

Enclosures: Task Force Charge
Task Force Report

The Task Force's first goal was to come up with a list of about 20 names. They want to pare the list down to about 10 names, seek advice from interest groups, sample the AAEA membership, and alter the list based on these responses. They hope to bring a single name proposal to the Board in time for it to be brought to the membership for discussion at the Business Meeting in July.

Jensen said the Task Force was seeking feedback on the best way to contact members and interest groups. They have developed three criteria for a new name: accurate; short and unique; and inclusive.

XVII Presentation of 2006-2007 Foundation Financials

Enclosures: Unspent Funds as of November 30, 2006
2006-2007 Proposal Update
Foundation Investment Account Performance
Appreciation Club Balances

Moehlmann handed out the November Foundation financials and presented information on endowment balances. Investment account performance had an ending balance up \$135,066 from November 2006.

XVIII Proposed 2007-2008 Foundation Budget Moehlmann

Enclosure: 2007 - 2008 Proposed Budget

XIX Presentation of 2006 – 2007 Financials Moehlmann

Enclosures: November 2006 Balance Sheet
November 2006 Income & Expense Statement

XX Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget McCluskey, Chair

Finance Committee

- A. Presentation, discussion and approval
 - Enclosures: Finance Committee Report
 - Proposed 2007 - 2008 Budget
- B. C-FARE request for financial support 2007-2008
 - Enclosure: C-FARE Funding Request

Sexton moved to fund C-FARE \$12,500 out of the association funds with no in-kind donation and it is implied that a subsequent negotiation with C-FARE for business to fulfill accounting services should take place. Motion was seconded by McCluskey **Motion Approved unanimously.**

Sexton moved to approve the budget with C-FARE expenditure and with an additional \$95,000 executive director expense. Motion was seconded by Pinstrup-Andersen. **Motion approved unanimously.**

It was noted that this would create a budget deficit of \$13,306.

McCluskey moved to approve the one-time estimated transitional expenses of \$235,725 to be paid out of the association reserves to effect the transition to Executive Director, Inc. Motion seconded by Holt. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The board formally recognized that there might be an opportunity to review the budget variance and revise the 2007-08 budget; particularly for some of the larger, transitional expenses. There was a potential that an estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000 may need to come out of the capital to break even in 2007-08.

- C. Funding requests for financial support from other allied groups
 - Enclosure: Summary of requests

Sexton moved to table this action until the Portland meeting in light of clearer budget numbers for the association given the transitional uncertainty. Motion seconded by Stefanou. **Motion approved: 7 yeah, 0 nays, 1 abstain (Pinstrup-Andersen abstained).**

Randall moved that the maximum number of new AAEA Fellows any year be set equal to one for every 800 members or part there of, in the 20th year prior to the year of selection. Motion seconded by Sexton. **Motion approved unanimously.**

XXI Adjourn

Buccola adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE ENCLOSED
AND ARE INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

- A. Written Reports: AAEEA Publications
 - a. CHOICES
 - b. RAE
 - c. AJAE
- B. Employment Services Committee Report
- C. Foundation Endowment Committee Report
- D. Ag Econ Search Report
- E. AAEEA Executive Board Action Items (updated 12/1/06)