



American Agricultural Economics Association
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**AAEA Executive Board Meeting
Conference Call
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
9:30am – 11:00pm CDT
APPROVED MINUTES**

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

Ex-Officio: Terri Haffner, Interim Executive Director; Joan Fulton, RAE Editor, Stephen K. Swallow, AJAE Editor.

Guests: Dave Baumann, Marilyn Moehlmann, Darryl Nitsch, Julia Fryk.

I Welcome & President's comments

Meeting called to order 9:37 a.m. CDT.

II Agenda review and approval

Agenda item XII, Discussion of Page Charge Issue for AJAE/RAE, was moved to a planned Executive Board conference call in April.

III Approve Minutes – January 6-7 2007

Enclosure: Draft of minutes

Buccola asked to abbreviate, by eliminating some references to individuals, the portion of the January 6-7, 2007 minutes detailing the Board's Principal Paper selections. Buccola asked also to clarify the wording of the Randall motion on Fellows selection by saying specifically that the maximum number "be equal to one for every 800 members or part thereof..." The relevant part of the Jan. 6-7, 2007 minutes would now read: "Randall moved that the maximum number of new AAEA Fellows in any year be equal to one for every 800 members or part thereof, in the 20th year prior to the year of selection."

Holt moved to approve the January 6-7, 2007 minutes with Buccola's proposed changes. Motion seconded by Stefanou. **Motion approved unanimously.**

IV Executive Director/EDI Update—Interim Executive Director, Terri Haffner

Operations:

EDI and AAEA staffs are holding joint weekly staff meetings. Haffner and EDI staff also are holding two meetings every other week—one focused on operations and the other on the Annual Meeting. Haffner reported that the transition to EDI was going smoothly and on schedule thus far.

ACCI, AERE, and WAEA have all decided to continue with their AAEA management contracts through at least the end of 2007. AAEA will sub-contract their work to EDI. During the fourth quarter of 2007, a review will be conducted and decisions made on how to proceed with these organizations in 2008. C-FARE will continue to use AAEA's management services and will pay for them. At the January 2007 board meeting, the Board agreed to replace the AAEA's in-kind contributions to C-FARE with higher cash funding.

AAEA Ames Staff:

Gayle Tate in the Ames office left AAEA on January 26 to take another job. Her retention plan was not executed, as she left before her scheduled separation date.

Kay Snopek's scheduled separation date was March 30 and her retention plan will be executed.

It is expected that Alice Hushagen will leave April 30, on her scheduled separation date, and that her retention plan will be executed.

Haffner has extended Marilyn Moehlmann's employment through the end of August. She would work part time (20 hours per week) beginning June 1. Her primary tasks are: 1) wrapping up the audit; 2) training an EDI employee on registration desk duties for the Annual Meeting; 3) closing the Ames office; and 4) advising about post-Meeting accounting.

AAEA EDI Staff:

Through March 2007, EDI has hired the following staff: Darryl Nitsch – Communications/Membership Manager; Kristin Agard – Meeting Planner; Julia Fryk – Project Coordinator. Other EDI staff members have been used on a short term, as-needed basis. EDI was in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant, who would begin on April 1. The timing of hiring an Executive Director is still uncertain. Once the new staff are hired, the AAEA staff team will be complete except for those needed to service ACCI, AERE, and WAEA .

V AAEA Operating Policies

The AAEA Business Office has received a petition, with 58 supporting emails, to establish an Econometrics Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Jill McCluskey submitted the petition on behalf of the following section organizers (in alphabetical order): George Davis; Matt Holt; George Judge; Jeff LaFrance; Tom Marsh; Jill McCluskey; Ron Mittelhammer; and Rulon Pope.

Randall moved to approve the petition to form a provisional econometrics section of the AAEA. Motion seconded by Doering.

Motion approved unanimously.

VI Foundation Endowment Committee Funding Recommendations

Per Pinstруп-Andersen reported that the Foundation Endowment Committee has received and considered three proposals since the first of the year.

- 1) The Graduate Student Section has requested \$2,500 to support their Annual Meeting activities. This proposal was very similar to past requests that have been funded.
- 2) The Foundation Endowment Committee proposed a new AAEA Student Supplement Scholarship program, modeled after the McCorkle Scholarship but with more flexibility built in.
- 3) President Steve Buccola requested \$5,000 to help pay for the Keynote Speaker at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Portland.

Doering moved that the AAEA Foundation grant the Graduate Student Section \$2,500 to support their Annual Meeting activities. Motion seconded by Randall.
Motion approved unanimously.

Holt moved that AAEA create, in principle, a Student Supplement Scholarship program, modeled after the McCorkle Scholarship but with more flexibility built in. Motion seconded by Stefanou.

Motion rejected, 3 votes yea to 5 votes nay.

Stefanou moved that the AAEA Foundation approve \$5,000 to help pay for the Keynote Speaker at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Portland. Motion seconded by Sexton.
Motion approved unanimously.

VII Proposal from EDI Concerning AAEA Abstract Submission Structure

Nitsch proposed, on behalf of the AAEA staff, that the Annual Meeting abstract submission process be changed in 2008, with the goal was of making it more efficient and fluid both for AAEA members and staff.

Membership Requirements:

Staff propose that AAEA require all persons submitting abstracts to be AAEA members at the time of submission. Since authors would then, for 2008 for example, be submitting in the fall of 2007, they also would have to renew membership in 2008. This is a common practice among professional associations because it allocates organizational resources directly to the association's members.

Timeline Changes:

Staff propose a timeline change for the 2008 abstracts that would move the schedule up about one month ahead of the current schedule. Following such a timeline would help render the final program more complete and accurate. It also would allow Topic Leaders additional time to make decisions about Selected Papers and Posters.

Holt moved to table the discussion until the April conference call and ask staff to provide additional supporting information. Motion seconded by Doering.
Motion approved unanimously.

Buccola asked for volunteers to work with staff on this timeline. Stefanou and Jensen volunteered and were appointed.

VIII Portland Annual Meeting Update

Enclosure: Report from Buccola

Buccola reported that a major effort is underway to organize a large and attractive Posters program in Portland. Two dedicated Poster sessions are being set aside. Poster authors will be scheduled in the written program to be at their Poster during at least one of these two sessions.

IX Name Change Task Force Update

Jensen referred to the report from the Name Change Task Force. The Task Force has provided four potential new names for the Association and will survey members about their attitudes toward these and other names. The Task Force will use that information to recommend potential new names for the Board's consideration in July.

X Outreach Task Force Update

Enclosure: E-mail from Doering

Doering referred to the Outreach Task Force's report and asked for the Board's support in moving forward with it. The Task Force recommends a permanent AAEA Outreach Committee be formed, comprising four or five members. The Committee would explore establishing a scaled-down *Choices* publication that would halve the present number of articles, continue to use the *Choices* website but add an "AAEA Express" featuring quick-response articles, and provide outreach communication training at the Annual Meetings.

Buccola said he would establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach to examine these concepts. Board approval would be required in order for the Ad Hoc Committee to become a permanent one.

XI Update on ACCI

Buccola reviewed correspondence between the AAEA and American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) to explore closer relationships between the two associations. On the basis of these conversations, ACCI has indicated its interest in participating with the AAEA in 2008 Annual Meeting in Orlando. ACCI also has agreed to assemble a joint task force with the AAEA to examine the possibility of a confederation of the two associations.

Buccola said he would appoint the AAEA representatives to two joint task forces with ACCI: (1) to co-plan the Orlando meetings with ACCI; and (2) to develop the parameters of a long-term confederal relationship between the AAEA and ACCI. Buccola asked for volunteers to notify him by e-mail.

XII Discussion of Page Charge Issue for AJAE/RAE

Discussion tabled (see Item III).

XIII Establish Date and Time for Next Conference Call

The next conference call was scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

XIV Adjourn

Holt moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Sexton.

Motion approved unanimously.