



American Agricultural Economics Association
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

**AAEA Executive Board Meeting
New Orleans, LA
Edgewood Room, Sheraton New Orleans
Saturday, January 5, 2008
8:30 am – 5:00 pm
APPROVED MINUTES**

Present: Otto Doering III, President; Richard Just, President Elect; Steve Buccola Past President; Damona Doye; Matt Holt; Lisa House; Helen Jensen; Jill McCluskey; Spiro Stefanou

Ex-Officio: David Baumann, Executive Director

Staff: Kristin Agard, Assistant Executive Director, Adam Woznicki, Accountant

Guests: Tamara Wagester, Executive Director, C-FARE

Saturday, January 5, 2008

I. Welcome & President's comments

Otto Doering, AAEA President, welcomed the Board to New Orleans. He stated that he had a few items of business he would like to address before proceeding with the stated agenda.

First, a number of members have requested to use the AAEA email database for various surveys. The Board recommends all requests to use the AAEA email database go through AAEA staff. If AAEA staff does not determine an objectionable purpose such as commercial gain for the request, they will forward the request to the AAEA President. If the AAEA President determines that the request is worthy of approval, he will present it to the Board for action and/or approval.

Second, Doering asked for feedback regarding the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) Meeting. The Board charged AAEA Staff with investigating the best format for the TW Schultz Memorial Dinner in 2009. The Board agreed that due to price constraints and decreasing attendance, a luncheon may be a better forum. The Board also asked AAEA Staff to calculate the number of AAEA members who attended the TW Schultz Memorial Dinner. For the 2009 TW Schultz Memorial Dinner, the Board recommends broader promotion of the reception and dinner.

Third, Doering reported that he sent a formal letter to the Association of Christian Economists (ACE) respectfully indicating that AAEA cannot honor their request at the 2008 AAEA Meeting. The leaders of ACE responded graciously to his letter.

Fourth, Doering announced James Hamilton as the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Meeting. This lecture will be held jointly with the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI). Hamilton will be speaking about energy prices and is willing to do a panel breakfast similar to the one held with Vernon Smith and Partha Dasgupta at the 2007 Portland Meeting. The Board asked that the cost of the breakfast be appealing to Graduate Students.

Fifth, the Board agreed to review editor compensation and the Book Reviewer term at the July 2008 Board meeting. The Board would like the Book Reviewer rotation to coincide with one of the AJAE editors. The Board agreed to discuss this under agenda item VIII

Lastly, the Confederation Task Force is considering an organizational framework for the prospective organization. ACCI would like to hold an open forum at the Annual Meeting regarding the confederation. Doering and Helen Jensen are working with the Task Force. David Baumann recommended the Task Force create bylaws and a constitution internally before involving legal counsel. He also advised the Board to be sensitive to proportion of AAEA representation within the confederation since AAEA will generate the largest portion of expense and revenue. He also suggested that the AAEA Board should begin communicating the Task Force's progress with the membership.

II. Agenda review and approval

Damona Doye moved to approve the agenda. Richard Just stated that he wanted to first discuss the Galbraith speaker for the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting.

Just announced that the Galbraith Committee identified three potential speakers for the 2008 Galbraith Forum: Elinor Ostrom, Elhanan Helpman, and Paul Romer.

Just moved to approve the speakers recommended by the Galbraith Committee. Jill McCluskey seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Galbraith Committee will move forward on finalizing a speaker.

Just seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

III. Approve Minutes

Just moved to approve the December 12, 2007 Board Minutes. Matt Holt seconded the motion.

Doering called the question. Doering noted that the Board had lingering concerns about the budget proposed by the Outreach Committee in December. The Board decided that they will evaluate the outreach products and spending at the July Board Meeting. The Board stressed that the approved outreach efforts should support the needs of C-FARE. Doering charged Doye and Jensen (both C-FARE Board members) to ensure the outreach materials help meet the needs of C-FARE and AAEA. He would like a report identifying the effectiveness of the outreach materials at the July Board Meeting. In addition, external efforts from the Outreach Committee directed to government agencies for support should be coordinated with C-FARE. Doering and Doye will work with the Outreach Committee and Doering, Doye and Jensen with C-FARE to minimize overlap and competition for the same resources.

Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Executive Director update

Baumann announced that the Ames office is officially closed. All costs and contracts will be settled by the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Baumann stated that Executive Director, Inc (EDI) is now directly managing the operational components of the Council on Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics (C-FARE).

V. Consent Agenda Items

Doering asked the Board if they would like to remove any agenda items from the Consent Agenda. The Board removed the Foundation Committee Recommendations, the AJAE Associate Editor Appointment, and the GSS Networking Proposal. The RAE Editor Appointment was the only item left on the Consent Agenda.

Holt moved to approve the Publication Committee's RAE Editor recommendation. Just seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Foundation Committee Recommendations

Buccola reviewed the recommendations from the Foundation Committee. He pointed out that the Committee approved the Outreach Committee proposal but had concerns about the lack of detail provided in the report. The Foundation Committee does not anticipate recommending continuous annual funding for the Outreach Committee. The Committee supports the ESIRC proposal. The Committee recommends the Foundation grant \$2,500 (a small portion of the proposed amount) to the online math tutorial proposal submitted by Pushkarskaya. The Board expressed concerns about the appropriateness of the online math tutorial proposal. The Board decided it would not approve the math tutorial proposal. The Board would like to allocate the \$2,500 intended for the math course to support graduate students at the Annual Meeting. This is in addition to the \$20,000 recommended for graduate student travel grants. The Board decided it would provide C-FARE with \$17,500 of support from Foundation funds rather than the \$30,000 proposed by the Committee. The Board plans to allocate an additional \$17,500 from the general AAEA funds since the AAEA office will no longer provide in-kind support to C-FARE.

Buccola moved to approve the Foundation Committee recommendations with the following revisions: \$17,500 will go to C-FARE; the graduate online math course will not be funded; the Graduate Student Travel Grant Program will be awarded an additional \$2,500. Spiro Stefanou seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. AJAE Associate Editor Appointment

The Board would like to cap the number of Associate Editor Appointments to 30 people. This will be outlined in the AAEA Operating Policies.

Just moved to approve the AJAE Associate Editor appointments as outlined by the AJAE Editors, and to change the AAEA Operating Policies to cap the number of Associate Editors to 30 people. Lisa House seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. GSS Networking Proposal

The Board agreed that it wanted to support any networking efforts on behalf of the Graduate Student Section. House volunteered to monitor the site.

Buccola moved to approve the GSS Networking Proposal. Just seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. 2008 Annual Meeting – Orlando

Holt moved to approve the top seven ranked Principal Papers. Doering seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Doering asked the AAEA office to confirm that all Principal Paper participants were eligible according to the Operating Policies. The Board also asked that the organizers of the session "Growing the Local Food Market" be asked to change the title.

Board approved Pre- and Post-Conference Workshops with the Pre-Conference Workshops on Sunday ending by 3:00 pm.

Doye asked the AAEA office to confirm that Track Sessions have a maximum of four papers per session per the Operating Policies.

X. Foundation Travel Grants Proposal

The Foundation Committee submitted a proposal to change the language and purpose of the Minority Professional Travel Grants. They proposed the grant be inclusive of all young academics and be merged with the Graduate Student Travel Grants. Doering asked that the call be changed to reference young professionals (not just academics). The Board agreed that the travel grants should encourage participation for graduate students and be used to fund those who cannot get funding from their organization or institution. The Board also asked that the call encourage broad participation in the Annual Meeting. Holt and Buccola will revise the call so that it is inclusive of all young professionals and it encourages participation of graduate students.

XI. AJAE Editor Compensation & Rotation

Holt stated that some of the Editors raised questions regarding expense reimbursements. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by AAEA and the Editors does not clearly state how much money each Editor can expense in any given year. Holt recommends the Board standardize the language. The Board recommends they rotate the Book Review Editor in sync with the next AJAE Editor rotation. The Board would like the Book Review Editor to be on a four year rotation, with the next rotation starting in 2009. The Board tabled this discussion for the July Board Meeting. Holt will work with the AAEA office to clarify the terms in the Memorandums and will propose new language as well as Editor compensation at the July Board meeting.

Publication contract negotiations will begin this year (2008). A letter of intent is due to Wiley-Blackwell by the end of December 2008. Doering will determine which Board member will take the lead on this process; however, the AAEA Board must maintain complete control over the negotiations.

XII. Association Name Task Force Update

Survey results for the preliminary name change survey have been calculated. The response rate was approximately 36.7%. The name "Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)" was the majority winner with 54.7% of the vote. The name "Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (AREA)" received 20.2% of the vote, while the name "Association of Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (AFARE)" received 25% of the vote. The Board requested a formal ballot go out to the entire membership by February. Doering and Just will work on collecting pro & con statements for changing the association's name. The statement and ballot notice will be posted on the Web site, in a blast email, and on a postcard mailer. AAEA staff will work on a strategy to ensure the entire membership receive the ballot.

XIII. AgEcon Search Report

Stefanou moved to approve the use of AgEcon Search for the 2008 Annual Meeting. Holt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. C-FARE Report

Tamara Wagester updated the AAEA Board on C-FARE projects. Outreach activities from AAEA funds include intern briefings, the C-FARE newsletter, education seminars using AAEA

outreach materials (CHOICES), and Policy Issues input. Doering asked that Wagester prepare a report addressing the value of outreach materials produced by AAEA.

Buccola and Holt announced they had reworded the Foundation Committee's Call for Applications: Travel Grants for Young Professionals and Graduate Students. The proposed wording is as follows:

Call for Applications

Travel Grants for Young Professionals and Graduate Students

The AAEA Foundation seeks applications for Young Professional and Graduate Student Travel Grants. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2009 AAEA Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, July 26-28, 2008. Up to \$400 will be awarded to each applicant, based on professional merit, financial need, and expected active participation in the Meeting.

A qualifying applicant must be a graduate student or comparatively new junior professional engaged at an accredited U.S. college, university, or other institution in such applied economics fields as agribusiness, agricultural, consumer, food, development, environmental, health, marketing, regional, rural, or resource economics. On account of the Foundation's goal of broadening participation in the Annual Meeting, preference may be given to individuals working under institutional circumstances not normally conducive to AAEA meeting attendance.

Applications should be submitted through the head of the applicant's department or division. The application statement should include:

- (1) Applicant's name, postal address, email address, and phone number;
- (2) Indication of whether the applicant is an AAEA member; and the history of any AAEA travel grants he/she has been awarded in the past;
- (3) Applicant's current status, including: young professional or graduate student; department and institution at which enrolled or employed; degree program underway or recently completed; years at institution; brief resume of research area; and professional rank or anticipated graduation date;
- (4) Description of applicant's planned participation in the AAEA Annual Meeting;
- (5) Proposed travel budget, including other funding sources available, such as from the applicant's institution; and
- (6) Department or division head's certification of applicant's financial need, including certification that funding is unavailable from other sources.

Department or division heads will decide which applications to submit. A head may submit a maximum of three applications. Applications will be accepted only from U.S. colleges, universities, and institutions. Applications, together with the department or division head's cover letter, should be submitted electronically to travelgrants@aaea.org by 5 p.m. CDT on April 25, 2009.

Buccola moved to approve the Call for Applications: Travel Grants for Young Professionals and Graduate Students as revised by the Board. Just seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. 2008 Class of AAEA Fellows Selection

END EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. Presentation of 2007-2008 Foundation Financials

Adam Woznicki, AAEA Accountant, reviewed the Foundation financials for 2007-2008 year to date 11/30/07. (See Enclosure)

XVII. Foundation Spending Rule Proposal

Woznicki and Baumann presented the proposed changes to the Foundation Spending Rule. The Board amended the proposal so that the new spending rule for the Foundation general purpose funds is 5% (versus 6%) of the 3-year rolling average of the investment portfolio. The Board agreed that approved funds for proposals are to be spent in the year they are allocated, and that unspent funds will no longer be tracked (as outlined in the spending rule proposal).

Just moved to approve the Foundation Spending Rule Proposal with the provision that the spending rule for general purpose funds be 5% of the 3 year rolling average of the investment portfolio. Doye seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The adopted spending rule is as follows:

Special Purpose Fund groups will be allowed to make recommendations to the Foundation Committee. If the recommendation aligns with the stated purpose of the Special Fund and with the purpose of AAEA, the Committee will send the recommendation with its endorsement to the AAEA Board for action (approval, disapproval, or return it to the Foundation Committee for further consideration).

In order to understand the explanation below with respect to the Sylvia Lane Appreciation Club funding, it is important to note that it is actually broken into two accounts. The first is a fund called the Lane Mentorship, to which people contribute with the understanding that the money donated be used immediately for the mentorship/fellowship. The second is the Sylvia Lane Appreciation Club in which people contribute with the understanding that only the portion of the portfolio gain that can be attributed to the Club fund each year on investment will be used for the mentorship/fellowship. This portfolio gain is cumulative and will be tracked year to year. The mentorship/fellowship is the stated purpose of the fund and the reason it is deemed a special purpose.

With respect to all other Special Purpose Funds: the AAEA office will keep a running calculation of the available funds for each Special Purpose Fund according to the percentage of the total portfolio investment the Special Purpose Fund represents. In other words, the AAEA will keep a record of the accumulated gain on investment. For the Sylvia Lane Fund, the available funds will be made up as follows: the amount at previous fiscal year-end in the Lane Mentorship account, plus the percentage of the total cumulative investment gain (the percentage is computed by seeing what amount the Lane Appreciation Club is compared to the entire investment portfolio).

For the other Special Purpose Funds (Tweeten, Grano, McCorkle) the amounts available each year will be almost the same as above. Their available funds will be calculated by looking at the ratio of funds in the Special Purpose Fund compared to the total investment portfolio. The amount available will be a cumulative gain. These Special Purpose Funds will also need a recommendation to the Committee and review from the Board.

Currently, the Foundation allows spending on 6% of a three-year rolling average of the investment portfolio for programs that align with the AAEA mission. The new spending rule will allow only for 5% of a three-year rolling average of the investment portfolio.

Each approved proposal has one year to use funds. Previously, approved proposals have had 3 years to use funds. This rule will be grandfathered, but most of the proposals to the Foundation will easily fit this rule. We would also stop tracking "unspent funds." The unspent funds represented the total amount of the individual approved proposal amounts that went unspent over the 3 year time period.

XVIII. The Proposed 2008-2009 Foundation Budget

The Foundation budget for 2008-2009 is reflected in the approved Foundation proposals (see item VI)

XIX. Presentation of 2007 – 2008 Financials

Woznicki presented the 2007 – 2008 financials year to date 11/31/07. The Board and AAEA staff expressed concern over the accounting process for the AAEA Sections. Doering will work with the AAEA office to make the process more transparent.

XX. The Proposed 2008 – 2009 Budget

Woznicki and Baumann presented the AAEA Budget. The Board agreed that it would provide C-FARE with \$17,500.

XXI. Fiscal Year

Baumann proposed that the fiscal year of the AAEA be made the calendar year as of January 1, 2009 as part of the budget proposal.

Just moved to approve the budget with the addition of \$17,500 be allocated to C-FARE. Stefano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XXII. Adjourn

Doering adjourned the Meeting at 5:04 pm.