



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

AAEA Executive Board Conference Call
Friday, May 30, 2008
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm CDT

APPROVED MINUTES

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

Ex-Officio: David Baumann, Executive Director

Staff: Kristin Agard, Associate Executive Director

Absent: Damona Doye

Otto Doering, AAEA President, called the Meeting to order at approximately 12:32 pm CDT.

I. Approve April 2008 Board Minutes

Richard Just moved to approve the April 2008 Board Minutes. Spiro Stefanou seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

II. Executive Director Update

Kristin Agard updated the Board on membership and Meeting registration numbers. As of May 29, 2008 there were 2,260 current AAEA members. Last year on May 31, 2007 there were 2,347 AAEA members. There are 821 people registered for the Meeting. In 2007 during the last week of May, there were 945 people registered for the Meeting.

David Baumann gave the Board a review of the C-FARE Board Meeting which took place May 19-20, 2008. The C-FARE Board committed to organizing online symposia for each edition of *Choices*. The first two symposia were well attended and received positive feedback.

C-FARE agreed to hire a consultant and develop a strategic plan for the Association. Strategic planning will help C-FARE find projects and funding which are aligned with their mission and goals. It will also help C-FARE identify opportunities to stabilize their operating budget therefore making them less dependent on financial support from AAEA. C-FARE is seeking support from two other Foundations in addition to AAEA and AAEA Foundation. Baumann asked that the Board consider providing \$5,000 from AAEA and \$5,000 from the AAEA Foundation. Helen Jensen added that she was also at the Board Meeting, and it was apparent that strategic planning was needed to help C-FARE establish a better financial model. Just stated that the expenditure was a reasonable request and supported the \$5,000 expense. The \$5,000 request to the AAEA Foundation must first go to the AAEA Foundation Endowment Committee.

Just moved to approve providing financial support to C-FARE in the sum of \$5,000 for strategic planning. Stefanou seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Baumann added that Tamara Wagester, C-FARE Executive Director, would benefit greatly from attending the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA this summer. AAEA has \$4,000 budgeted for staff training and development, so Baumann suggested AAEA pay for Wagester's registration and travel to ASAE. However, Wagester is not a direct employee of AAEA. The AAEA Board agreed that Wagester's professional development would greatly benefit C-FARE and AAEA. The Board agreed that travel and registration for ASAE could come from the fund allocated to AAEA staff training and development.

III. 2011 Site Selection

Matt Holt moved to approve Pittsburgh as the location for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Lisa House seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

IV. 2009 Track Session Proposals

Holt moved to approve the proposal specifying the number of Track Session participants in the AAEA Operating Policies and to approve the proposed 2009 Track Sessions Submission timeline. The AAEA Operating Polices, under the Track Sessions heading (page 20), will now read:

Track sessions with presentations must fit one the following formats: A) Four presentations with no discussants or panelists, B) Three presentations with a maximum of one discussant, or C) Two presentations with a maximum of two discussants or panelists. In sessions without presentations, a maximum of five participants may be included as panelists

The 2009 Track Session Submission timeline will be:

Section leaders Submit Basic Outlines of Track Sessions to Staff	December 3
Board Reviews Track Session Outlines	January Board Meeting
Full Session Information (speakers, titles, etc) Entered into ScholarOne	March 1
Full submission reviewed by Executive Committee	March 10
Begin Scheduling Track Sessions	March 18
Program information is pulled from ScholarOne	Early April

House seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

V. Choices Outstanding Article Award

Doering announced that there will be a recipient of the *Choices* Outstanding Article Award at the Annual Meeting. The Outreach Committee/*Choices* Advisory Board is in the process of selecting a winner.

Doering added that a Shared Materials Editor has not been identified; in fact, AAEA did not receive any applications. Walt Armbruster has taken on the role of *Policy Issues* Editor. If the Board approves, he will remain in the position until a replacement is found (expected 2009).

Just moved to approve Armbruster's position as *Policy Issues* Editor. House seconded the motion. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

VI. Proposed change in the AAEA Policy Award

Just announced that the Gardner Appreciation Club raised approximately \$25,000. Just discussed the possibility of changing the current AAEA Policy Award into the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis. The award selection process would remain the same, but Just proposes offering a cash prize which would come from the Foundation fund. Stefanou reminded the Board that this request has been made in the past and has been denied by the Board. The Board agreed that in order to move forward, the Board must standardize policies for the Foundation Appreciation Clubs. Just will work with Baumann to create draft a policy for the Foundation Appreciation Clubs as well an implementation plan for the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis.

VII. Foundation Endowment Committee Recommendation

Jill McCluskey moved to approve the 2008 Foundation Travel Grants as outlined by the AAEA Foundation Endowment Committee. Just seconded the motion. ***Motion approved unanimously.***

At 1:31 pm McCluskey excused herself from the call.

VIII. Graduate Student Section Proposal – New Initiatives

House reviewed a proposal from the Graduate Student Section. The proposal was in response to the Board's request to get Section feedback on how to increase graduate student participation in the Association. Part of their proposal included giving ribbons to the GSS Officers at the Annual Meeting. The AAEA office will fulfill this request. GSS suggested revising the membership year to be on the academic calendar. AAEA prefers to keep the membership year aligned with the fiscal year; therefore, this request cannot be granted. GSS also asked the Board to consider lowering graduate student membership dues. The Board plans to discuss all membership dues at the July Board meeting. Lastly, GSS asked that the officers receive Annual Meeting travel grants the year after they are elected to an office. The Board suggests GSS write a proposal to the AAEA Foundation Endowment Committee. As the Board Liaison to GSS, House will relay the decisions to the Section.

IX. Committee Updates in the Operating Policies

Just proposed the Professional Activities Committee, the Investment Subcommittee, the Selected Paper Subcommittee, and the Selected Poster Subcommittee be disbanded. The Professional Activities Committee and Investment Subcommittee have been inactive. Since the submission and review process for papers and posters have been merged, the Selected Papers and Posters Committee will be named the Selected

Presentations Committee. Just spoke with all Committee chairs and Board liaison members, and all were agreeable with these changes.

Just moved to disband the Professional Activities Committee, the Investment Subcommittee, and the Selected Papers Subcommittee, and the Selected Posters Subcommittee, and to change the name of the Selected Papers and Posters Committee to the Selected Presentations Committee. Stefanou seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Doering asked Just to talk about the Winter Meeting Proceedings in the AJAE (originally Agenda Item XIII).

X. Winter Meeting Proceedings in the AJAE

Just proposed the Board reevaluate the location of the AAEA Meeting proceedings. Currently, the summer Meeting proceedings are published in the December issue of AJAE. The winter Meeting proceedings are published in the August issue of RAE. The Board decided additional research needs to be done in order to make an informed decision. Just will ask the Communications/Publications Committee to review the proposal and make a recommendation for the next Board call. Just noted that the Board should make a decision within the next few weeks so that the information can be used in the publication Request for Proposal (RFP) currently being drafted.

XI. Publication Negotiation Committee Update

Stefanou announced that the RFP is scheduled to go out in mid-July. The Committee has been working with consultant Morna Conway. The Committee plans to send a draft of the RFP to a second consultant, Ted Bergstrom, mid-June. Stefanou noted that the strategy (including theme, scope, and title) for RAE should be nailed down before the RFP is distributed.

XII. Potential Changes in Journal Name

Buccola referenced two documents he created for the Board's consideration. Just added that the Communication/Publication Committee will also provide feedback on the RAE potential name change.

Doering asked Just to contact Ian Sheldon, Chair of the Communication/Publication Committee, and request a report from the Committee regarding the title and scope of the RAE and the proceedings issues. Doering asked Buccola to solicit similar input from the editors of both journals. Doering also asked the Board to participate in another call mid-June in order to review the report.

XIII. Name Change Update – Logo Redesign

Doering informed the Board that the new logo will be presented at the Business Meeting in Orlando. On the June Board Call, the Board will review several logos. The Board can either accept one of the designs, or ask AAEA staff to revise or refine any of the options. The Board will choose the final design.

XIV. July Board Meeting in Orlando – Agenda Items

Doering asked Agard to email the Board the tentative July Agenda. Any additional Agenda items can be sent to Agard. Just added that he would like the Board to discuss planning for the AAEA Centennial celebration at the July Board Meeting. He asked the Board to forward any celebration ideas or requests directly to him. Agard asked the Board if there were any opinions about the Centennial being held jointly with other regional associations. The Board agreed that all regional associations should be invited to join the Centennial celebration.

Doering adjourned the Call at approximately 2:29 pm CDT.