

American Agricultural Economics Association
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**AAEA Executive Board Meeting
Conference Call
Monday, October 2, 2006
8:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. CDT**

APPROVED

AAEA Executive Board Members present: Steve Buccola, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Otto Doering, Matt Holt, Alan Randall, Jill McCluskey, Helen Jensen and Spiro Stefanou

Ex Officio Members present: Yvonne Bennett (Executive Director)

AAEA Executive Board Member unable to attend: Rich Sexton

Ex Officio Members unable to attend: Stephen Swallow (AJAE), Danny Pick (RAE) and Bruce McCarl (CHOICES)

There were four agenda items for the teleconference call:

1. AMC Search Committee's report and recommendation
2. Staff retention plan & funding for the plan
3. AAEA Annual Meeting – track sessions by AAEA Sections
4. Awards Committee's request for policy revision

President Buccola reviewed the report previously distributed to the board on September 27, 2006. Members of the committee added their perspective and observations of the two companies being considered by AAEA.

Stefanou moved that ***“The board accept the recommendation of the search committee and that they begin negotiations with EDI of Milwaukee.”*** Motion was seconded by Pinstrup-Anderson. Motion approved unanimously.

Bennett presented the staff retention plan and funding request memo that was also provided to the board members on September 27, 2006. The total cost to AAEA is estimated to be \$103,000, with \$47,000 coming in the current fiscal year and the remaining \$56,000 to be budgeted in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Board members supported the concept of a staff retention plan, commenting on the value and importance of providing COBRA benefits to staff as part of the severance arrangement.

Doering moved *“To accept and approve the retention plan as written.”* Holt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Buccola shared with the board a concern regarding board action taken in July relative to the AAEA Annual Meeting and the number of sessions allocated to the AAEA sections, especially in light of the new policy that the AAEA Executive Board will no longer review and approve track session submissions from the sections.

The fact that we’re meeting jointly with WAEA and CAES in Portland will help us to immediately realize our desired 25% decrease in AAEA sessions. With approximately 174 sessions available to AAEA and a maximum allotment of 70 sessions to the sections, it is possible that we could have only 100 sessions for the normal organized symposia and selected papers review process. This would constitute a decline of approximately 40% in non-track sessions compared to Long Beach.

The board agreed that since the sections have already been told of their allocation numbers for Portland, it would not be desirable to change those allocations now. It was suggested that Bennett and Buccola recommend to section leaders that they plan as many joint sessions as possible, and that they encourage sections to use only those session allocations for which a strong program can be developed. Sections also are discouraged from involving the same individual in many track sessions, as this limits speaking opportunities for others. Principles for allocating session space to sections may change in 2008 and beyond, depending upon recommendations from the Task Force on Annual Meeting Structure.

The final topic discussed was a recommendation from the Awards Committee to require Masters Thesis and PhD Dissertation Thesis award nomination packages to include a copy of the thesis in electronic PDF format. The purpose is to make it easier for the subcommittee to share the documents during the judging process.

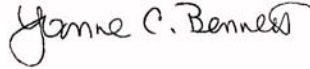
Pinstrup-Andersen moved *“To change the AAEA Operating Policies to read ‘Two copies and an electronic version in PDF format of a thesis must be sent to the subcommittee chair. All copies are returned after they have been read by the judges.’ ”* Motion seconded by Doering and passed unanimously. It was confirmed that this same requirement would be used for both the Masters and PhD thesis award nominations.

Before closing the meeting, the Holt asked for an update on the negotiations with Blackwell regarding the page charge and submission fee recommendations approved by the board in July. Bennett indicated that initial conversations with Blackwell in August indicated that the proper timing for such discussions was March or April of 2007 for the publishing year 2008. Given the AMC transition timeline she indicated that she had discussed the matter with Buccola, recommending deferral of action until March/April 2008. Buccola also mentioned that with the anticipated move to EDI, we expect having additional resources available to us with expertise in this area.

Bennett also updated the board on the second legal opinion regarding the governance issues and specifically the AAEA Constitution. Given that the second legal opinion indicated that he felt we were OK relative to the recent changes in Iowa State statute, we have chosen to not pursue changing the AAEA Constitution at this time. The question did arise regarding the editors serving on the board as ex-officio members. Bennett indicated that area of the AAEA Constitution should be reviewed for other possible changes given the lack of clarity regarding the AAEA Executive Director's position on the board vis-à-vis being an officer of the board, and yet an ex-officio member. No decision was made as to timing to pursue review and a possible membership vote of an amendment to the AAEA Constitution.

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Yvonne C. Bennett
Executive Director