

Minutes AAEA Extension Section Annual Business Meeting  
8/12/12

Rod Jones, the Section President called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM. Rod welcomed everyone and provided some general information. Rod introduced Julie Caswell as the new Board representative for the Section. There were 40 people in attendance.

Mike Duffy distributed the minutes from the Pittsburg meetings. The minutes were approved as presented.

Rod provided and discussed the Section's 2012 annual report. This report is attached.

Gary Schnitkey, incoming President, discussed the change in the Section leadership. See the Section report for the names of the new people and those who completed their terms. There was some discussion regarding how to increase the number of people who run for the offices. One of the reoccurring themes was for everyone to consider running and to encourage our colleagues.

Rich Sexton, the current Board representative to the Section, provided an update on the activities of the Board and the Association leadership. He noted that the Association was in good shape financially but that membership was off. One of the proposals the Board has presented is lowering the dues. This proposal was discussed during a general session and will be voted on by the members sometime in the coming year. Rich also expressed the Board's wish to have more AAEA sponsored symposium. He pointed out that meetings were in Washington, D.C. next year and he encouraged us to take advantage of being in that location. Another item Rich mentioned was the work with Oxford Press in creating a virtual issue which would involve pulling together all the current and past work on a topic.

There was a long discussion with Rich. One of the issues discussed was the assumption that decreasing dues would increase membership. This included a discussion on using the funds to provide more benefits to the members. Timing of the meetings was another item that was discussed. Rich acknowledged the problems created in having them be so late and he noted that they were earlier next year and were back to the previous time after that. The meeting next year will be Aug. 4 to 6.

Jim Novak provided the report from the Outreach committee. He discussed Choices and indicated there was some support for it. A concern was how to bring the old agricultural economists back to AAEA. Trent Teegerstrom will be the new chair for the Outreach Committee.

There was a discussion on Section dues and whether or not they should be changed. It was moved and seconded that the dues remain \$10 for next year. This passed by a unanimous vote.

There was a discussion regarding the symposium concept that Rich mentioned. How much lead time would be necessary to move symposium planning through the AAEA system to get Board approval for the event was discussed. This was determined not to be a problem. Similarly the Board requirement for membership was explained to mean AAEA membership or memberships in the cooperating organizations. The cooperating organizations did not necessarily have to be economic.

Webinars held during the past year were also discussed. These were successful and various other topics were suggested and discussed. Partnering with other organizations or Sections similar to the Land Value webinar was encouraged.

The graduate student competition was another topic. The number of submissions was down this year but the general feeling was that the numbers may be more a reflection on the timing for the meetings rather than a general trend. None-the-less Margot encouraged everyone to promote the competition. There was quite a bit of discussion on how to increase the number of students.

In addition to increasing the number of students, Margot noted the need to expand the judging pool for both the written and presentation portions. She noted that it didn't take too much time; a little in March and then on the day of the judging at the meetings. Margot also noted that it was especially critical to find new people this year because Frayne had asked to be replaced as co-chair.

Following these discussions Rod 'officially' stepped down as Chair and turned the meeting over to Gary. Gary reviewed some of the past programs and asked people for comments and suggestions. He also solicited ideas for tours at the Washington D.C. There was some sentiment expressed for the more traditional type tours as opposed to some deviation due to the location of the meetings. There was also discussion surrounding an Extension undergraduate award and there was discussion on how to broaden the current electronic award.

Brad Lubben also forewarned the group that we may get a Farm Bill. And, if we do, the educational programming would be on a short time frame. They are planning meetings to help train people on the new bill but obviously, we won't know when until there is a bill.

The meeting adjourned shortly before a dress code for future business meetings could be discussed.