



## **AAEA – Teaching, Learning and Communications Section**

July 21, 2019

M101 Marquis Level, Marriott Marquis

Atlanta, Georgia.

2:05 pm – 3:15 pm

### **MEETING NOTES**

Present: Mallory Vestal, Sierra Howry, Thomas Krumel, James Sterns, Michael Vassalos, Rodney Jones, Brian Briggerman, Christine Wilson, Elizabeth Yeager, Jason Bergtold, Katherine Lacy, Nursen Ozturk, Elijah Kosse, David Harper, Rachna Tewari, Michael Wetzstein, Timothy Woods, Kelly Grogan, Jerrod Penn, Ani Katchova, Aslihan Spaulding, Ross Pruitt, Jennifer Clark, Corey Miller, Na Zuo, Roger Brown, Scott Swinton, Kristin Kiesel

Mallory Vestal, TLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Presenter: Mallory Vestal, TLC Chair

#### **II. Approval of the 2018 TLC Meeting Minutes**

a. A motion was made by Sierra Howry to approve the 2018 minutes. Kristin Kiesel seconded. The motion was approved.

#### **III. Report from the AAEA Board Liaison**

Presenter: Scott Swinton, AAEA Board Liaison

Discussion:

- The AAEA board is working on mentoring opportunities. Scott Swinton mentioned as an example the research mentoring opportunities for early career professionals.
- A survey about diversity is forthcoming. The survey is currently distributed among the department chairs and will soon be distributed to all AAEA members.
- Scott Swinton talked about the AAEA anti-harassment and code of conduct policy.
- The changes in publishing (i.e. transition to open access journals) can potentially reduce the revenue of AAEA from journal publications. Four new appreciation clubs will be introduced in the future.
- Scott Swinton introduced Jason Begtold, editor of Applied Economics and Teaching Resources (AETR). He mentioned that the board is excited to have the first issue of the journal online, and indicated the growing support for the publication.

#### **IV. Officers Reports**

##### a. Membership and Financial Status: Presented by: Michael Vassalos, Secretary/Treasurer

- The TLC section has 216 current members (as of July 9, 2019), compared to 250 in 2018. Scott Swinton noted that it is not uncommon after a meeting in D.C. for section memberships to decline.
- Michael Vassalos reminded attendants to pay their dues, if they have not done so already.
- Michael Vassalos mentioned that the expenses for the TLC section in the budget are higher. Mallory Vestal explained that this was because of a \$2500 contribution to WARE, approved in 2016.

##### b. Election Results: Presented by: Mallory Vestal role: TLC chair

- Mallory Vestal announced that Kristin Kiesel, from University of California, Davis, is the Chair-Elect.
- Rodney Jones reminded the participants that elections for TLC chair are every year. Elections for Secretary/Treasurer are every three years.
- Mallory Vestal informed the participants the past – chair, Maria Bampasidou, has a young baby and thus was unable to attend the section. Mallory congratulated Maria for the baby.

#### **V. Old Business:**

##### a. Update/ Discussion about AETR: Presented by Jason Bergtold, Editor of AETR

- The first issue of AETR is published online. A second issue is expected by the end of the year. Overall, AETR is very successful so far in terms of submissions.
- AETR includes a wide range of articles and case studies. Furthermore, AETR includes teaching methods (i.e. curriculum development and evaluation) and extension teaching articles.
- Jason Bergtold mentioned that the scope of the journal is mainly university level.
- Every article (even commentaries) is peer reviewed.
- Jason Bergtold reminded the attendants about a special issue on case studies. He mentioned that the deadline could be extended to September. The hope is to have five to seven case studies in the special issue.

- Next year there will be a call for an extension methods special issue.
- Jason Bergtold can inform authors of teaching notes how many times a case study has been used, for what courses, etc.
- By year three or four, if the journal remains successful, the hope is to approach Willey to publish AETR.

b. Website Resources – Tips from award winners: Presented by: Mallory Vestal, TLC chair

- Mallory Vestal noted that the 2018 teaching award winners uploaded a video on the AAEA TLC section website. She asked Katherine Lacy to share her experience and thoughts about these videos. Katherine mentioned that, despite being a last minute activity, the experience was great, and the videos can be beneficial to AAEA members who are not able to attend the TLC section.
- Jason Bergtold indicated that AETR is interested in publishing teaching tips and inquired if TLC would be interested in partnering with AETR and have the teaching tips from award winners as invited videos and articles. Mallory Vestal added that there is opportunity for diversification, by including tips from previous winners as well. Sierra Howry and James Sterns applauded the idea of collaborating with AETR but mentioned the need for further direction, if this moves forward.

VI. New Business: Presented by Mallory Vestal

a. *Curriculum Innovations/accreditation awards.*

- Mallory Vestal reminded the participants about a discussion regarding curriculum innovation/ accreditation awards that TLC members had in 2018, and opened asked participants if they had any further ideas about this topic.
- Sierra Howry mentioned that if TLC wants to move forward with this endeavor, a committee should be established.
- Jennifer Clark asked Mallory Vestal to remind participants what was discussed during the 2018 meeting about the curriculum/accreditation awards. Furthermore, Jennifer Clark asked how would an innovation be defined, and what is TLC looking from these awards.
- Mallory Vestal mentioned that the awards should have a curriculum focus, and not a person one. The idea is to have a dynamic curriculum that will provide value to the students, instead of a static one. James Sterns mentioned that addressing the issue of gender in a curriculum as a potential example of an innovation.
- Na Zuo inquired if we should diversify between graduate and undergraduate level. She underlined that the focus of the award should be on the learning outcome not a class. Mallory Vestal seconded this idea and further indicated that the award should be focused on

the curriculum, and is not an individual teaching award. For the endeavor to be successful TLC should learn from SAEA and WARE similar activities, but differentiate the award from the ones existing already.

- Mallory Vestal made a motion for the formation of a subcommittee. Kristen Kiesel second the motion.
- Jennifer Clark, Roger Brown, Rachina Tewari, Kristin Kiesel, Katerine Lacy, Mallory Vestal volunteered for the committee.
- Sierra Howry highlighted that TLC needs to bring a proposal forward and have a written call to implement the awards in 2020, and have the first group of awards in 2021. Sierra's motion was amended by Brian Briggerman. The motion was approved.

*b. Inform attendants about Georganna Artz.*

- Michael Vassalos talked about Georgeanna Artz who passed away in April of 2019. He reminded the TLC members about Georgeanna's passion for teaching and all her contributions in the TLC and SS-AAEA sections. He indicated about the celebration of life in September and the link to the contributions to the Georgeanne Artz Memorial Fund.

*c. Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness*

- Kelly Grogan mentioned the need to document/analyze what is working well across the profession in promoting teaching in a more efficient way. Kelly asked if there are volunteers to assess potential unbiased teaching effectiveness measures. James Sterns volunteered and indicated that in Oregon State they are transitioning away from evaluations.

*d. Discussion about Membership and Financial Report*

- Rodney Jones asked participants to email officers with potential ideas to increase membership. He also talked about the TLC budget and asked attendants if: i) TLC should continue with the current dues and reduce expenditures, ii) increase membership fee, or iii) find if there is an entity that could sponsor TLC activities.
- James Sterns asked if there is a decline overall in section memberships, and how the dynamic of members changed based on the increasing number of sections. Scott Swinton indicated that usually following meetings in Washington D.C. a decline in membership is observed. However, he does not know how many members participate in multiple sections. Kristin Kiesel indicated the need to evaluate the composition of TLC members, and through that assess if it is beneficial to increase dues.
- Christine Wilson mentioned that a potential increase in membership fees would translate to a reduction in TLC membership. Elizabeth Yeager extended the argument by mentioning that not every due paying member is attending TLC sections and if we increase membership fees they may re-evaluate their decision to be a TLC member. Mallory Vestal mentioned that

if TLC increases membership fees, then it should also offer some additional value to members.

- Regarding sponsors the question is how do we identify the right company/person and establish connections. Kristin Kiesel proposed to reach to several potential industry representatives, especially the ones who hire people related to agriculture. Sierra Howry inquired whether the AAEA would allow such a sponsorship. Rodney Jones mentioned that the extension section used to do that with no problem from the board. James Sterns mentioned that the board may react if TLC proposes an expression for the main award event, but he does not envision a problem if this remains within the section. Mallory Vestal said that any sponsorship will only be acknowledged in the TLC business meeting.

- Sierra Howry also asked about the possibility of a fundraising activity. Kelly Gorgan mentioned the example of the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics and their fundraising efforts (t-shirt).

**VII: Section Awards:** Presenter: Mallory Vestal, and Rodney Jones

a. Graduate Student Teaching Award - The winner of the 2019 Graduate Student Teaching Award was Thomas Krumel from University of Connecticut. He was presented with a plaque and award.

b. Outgoing Leadership Recognition- Thank you to Mallory Vestal for her service as TLC chair. Mallory was presented with plaque by the current TLC leadership team. Photos were taken by Michael Vassalos

Discussion: None

**VIII: Passing of the Gavel**

The section's new officers assumed their roles as the section leadership.

**c. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Michael Vassalos, TLC Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by: Kristin Kiesel, TLC Chair-Elect