

Minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting
Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section
American Agricultural Economics Association
July 29, 2002

The first business meeting of the Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section (IBES) of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) convened at the Long Beach California Convention Center at 4:00 p.m. on July 29, 2002. The meeting was conducted by Gary Lynne. Kathy Kling represented the AAEA board at the meeting. Seventeen persons attended the organization meeting. A list of those attending is attached.

Gary Lynne began the meeting by presenting a brief history of events leading to the proposal to create IBES, including eleven years of free sessions on the topic of institutional economics organized by Allen Schmid. During this time, Lindon Robison and Marcelo Siles organized a learning workshop on the related subject of social capital at the Nashville AAEA meetings. Sam Cordes, Fred Hitzhuzen, Gary Lynne, George McDowell and Lindon Robison recognized the need for a place in AAEA for scientists interested in a broader framework for analysis than is typically considered by AAEA and so proposed IBES and gathered the necessary signatures. The AAEA board approved the creation of IBES at its July 2002 meeting. A background paper for IBES has been written by Gary Lynne and Fred Hitzhuzen.

A proposed slate of IBES officers was presented:

Gary Lynne, chair
Lindon Robison, chair-elect
Fred Hitzhuzen, secretary
Sam Cordes, board member at large for one year term
George McDowell, board member for two year term

Phil Wandschneider moved that the proposed slate of officers be accepted. Randy Westgren seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Phil Wandschneider then moved adoption of the proposed IBES bylaws. The motion was seconded by Larry Libby. Discussion on the bylaws followed. In response to Bob Spitze's question about how AAEA members join IBES, Ivy Sprague noted that AAEA will provide an opportunity on its membership form for AAEA members to join IBES. Ferdinand Wirth moved and Jane Luzar seconded a motion that a \$10 dues fee be charged IBES membership. Mary Ahearn opposed the motion because it might restrict interest. Lane Luzar said we needed to pay dues to indicate good faith interest in IBES. The motion passed with 8 persons voting in favor of the motion and 2 opposed.

The discussion focused then on approving the bylaws for IBES. The bylaws first proposed are attached. Amendments to the proposed bylaws were offered by Lindon Robison, Harvey James, Phil Wandschneider, Randy Westgren, and Julie Hogeland. After some discussion and debate,

amended bylaws were approved and are attached.

Discussion then focused on the 2003 meetings in Montreal to be hosted jointly by AAEA and the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) . It was recognized that the chair-elect also chair the program committee with two other IBES members on the committee. Mary Ahern suggested that the program focus on the most pressing policy issue such as multi-functionality. The need to coordinate and co-sponsor programs with other sections was agreed to. Randy Westgren recommended that program suggestions be solicited over the web. Lynne and Robison reviewed a mini-summit held at Michigan State to identify topics of mutual interest for agricultural economists and rural sociologists with a focus on social capital. Harvey James moved and Jane Luzar seconded the motion to create an IBES web site. Ivy Sprague will create and Gary Lynne will maintain the IBES web site initially. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded at approximately 5:30 p.m.