

**Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section (IBES)
American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA)
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Portland Annual Meeting
July, 2007**

The IBES Business Meeting was opened with a welcome and call to order by Chair Sam Cordes at 10:40 a.m. on July 29, 2007. Other IBES members and supporters in attendance included: Mary Ahearn, Mariah Branch, Heather Johnson, Gary Lynne, Laura McCann, Alan Randall, James Shaffer, Judith Stallmann, Bodo Steiner, Paul Thompson, and Randy Westgren. Cordes also noted the active participation of the Executive Committee through-out this past year, including several conference call “board meetings” as well as working on an IBES desk manual to guide future officers in working within the organization.

Minutes of the 2006 Meeting in Long Beach

The minutes were distributed. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Election and Amendment Proposal Results

Lynne reported that about 20-percent of the membership voted in the recent election and on the proposed changes in the bylaws. Lindon Robison is the Chair-elect; Gary Lynne is the Secretary; Peter Klein was elected to the Member-at-Large position vacated by Judith Stallmann. Write-in candidates were Jason Lusk for Chair-elect and Wendy Umberger for Member-at-Large; Mike Sykuta, the other candidate for Member-at-Large, along with the write-in candidates, were noted as possible nominees for positions in future elections. With the newly elected members, the current Executive Committee is:

Randall Westgren, Chair
Lindon Robison, Chair-elect
Sam Cordes, Past-Chair
Gary Lynne, Secretary
Peter Klein, Member-at-Large (2-year term)
Paul Thompson, Member-at-Large (1-year remaining)

All three proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved, with only 1-no vote directed at the proposed change to Article V (See attached ballot).

Membership

Lynne noted there are currently 94-members, which is 14-more than the number at this time in 2006. Three different lists of members and supporters are being maintained: 1) AAEA maintains the paying-membership list; 2) AAEA maintains a

listserv which members and others can subscribe to, and 3) a listserv of past, current members and supporters is maintained on the University of Nebraska server. Discussion ensued on whether these lists with e-mail addresses, and other detailed contact information, should be made available to the membership. Also, there was discussion of the possibility for a searchable directory, showing research interests and expertise. It was noted such a searchable directory is already available through the AAEA. It was decided to distribute a name and affiliation list of the current membership, as well as post it on the IBES website. It was also decided that we would ask AAEA to make the directory searchable by section membership. It is currently searchable by specialization.

Review of Last Year, Including Financials

The AAEA has indicated a balance of \$3735 as of March 31, 2007. Cordes noted a report had been submitted to the AAEA Board indicating the solid progress being made by IBES (see Attached for both Reports).

Report from AAEA Board Liaison

Randall noted the confluence of three changes in perspectives and approaches on the AAEA Board, all of which will affect Track programming in future years. *First*, tracks now have full autonomy to develop their own programming using Organized Symposia and Selected Papers, perhaps even Poster Presentations. He noted the Board had in effect rescinded the earlier approval for the IBES Section to review its own papers as designated for the IBES areas of work; these will be reviewed in the regular AAEA review process. Also, space limitations restrict the number of events that can be scheduled, with Section limitations based on membership (albeit there is some ongoing discussion to tie the number of sessions to attendance, participation in those sessions). The AAEA was again planning to count attendance at sessions this year. *Second*, the move to fewer Selected Paper sessions and more Poster Presentations, to save meeting room costs. Randall noted that the average attendance at perhaps too many Selected Paper sessions is 12.4, including presenters. *Third*, there has been an increasing number of Sections being added to the AAEA. *Bottomline*: Due to the Board, tri-partite attention to more autonomy for sections, less space and more sections, Sections are advised to submit all of their proposed events by the December 3 deadline. This may also, then, include the Selected Papers, with the abstracts already having been reviewed by IBES members by that time (Note: This means at this time that members could submit an IBES paper through either process, understanding that reviewers in the AAEA process may not be IBES affiliated, while papers submitted prior to the Track Proposal being submitted would be reviewed by IBES members). It is not clear if AAEA will allow the track selected papers to be called "selected papers." IBES might also consider eliciting and recommending Poster Presentations prior to the December 3 submittal of the Track Proposal; Cordes noted that a survey of the membership nearly 20-years ago indicated bringing more Poster Presentations to the meeting was a good idea, so this is a positive event, albeit somewhat delayed in implementation. It was also not clear if there would be space for track posters with the other posters.

The fact that funding has been withdrawn for *Choices* was also highlighted, yet the need to keep the "Choices-brand" alive is believed to be important. Randall reported that private sources of funding are being considered. There has also been some

conversation about bringing C-FARE into the AAEA. Also, there has been some discussion of the AAEA Foundation reducing its financial support for C-FARE. A task force on outreach has been formed, to look into the best way to represent AAEA to audiences not naturally the focus of regular extension programming. The focus will be on raising the recognition of the overall profession to these various groups, e.g., to congressional groups. Randall also noted that a new contractor was being sought to replace the COS system for submitting and reviewing papers being submitted for the annual conference.

IBES Track Update

Westgren noted there were 3-IBES sessions in the next two days, including one session regarding the rural-urban interface that had not been originally proposed by IBES. Also, there is a Selected Paper session that was developed from IBES paper submissions, albeit the papers in this session were reviewed as part of the overall Selected Papers process, rather than by an IBES committee.

IBES Website

It was noted that the website is being minimally maintained. Harvey James and Gary Lynne developed the original site, and continue to work with it. Some discussion ensued on what the site needs to be, what kind of materials we wish to have on it, who might contribute to its development and maintenance, etc. The matter was not resolved, although Lynne was give a green light to continue its development should he be inclined to do so.

Future Programming and the IBES Tracks

Thompson suggested the need to focus on enhancing the quality of future Selected Paper sessions, especially working to bring a theme into these sessions, rather than being just a collection of papers. Stallmann noted that it was perhaps best to delay introducing IBES posters to years beyond the Orlando meeting until the process for their selection was clarified by the AAEA board. Ahearn proposed we try to find a good mix of both Selected Papers and Poster Presentations. This matter was not resolved. Westgren highlighted the need, and problems with, collaborating with other Sections in programming, as such collaborations use-up time slot allocations given to each Section; there is a need to protect limited slot allocations for IBES as well as still collaborate with others. Lynne suggested we might consider sponsoring a learning conference... pre- or post-timing to be decided later... on Behavioral and Experimental Economics. There was some expression of interest in supporting such an event, especially if it could be focused on "how-to" activities, e.g., how to design and operate experiments. It was also noted, however, that overviews of alternative theoretical frameworks are essential to looking at experimental methods, in that design can be heavily influenced, biased by the theoretical framework guiding the experimental researcher. Stallmann suggested that perhaps the theoretical treatments could be integrated with the methods presentations. The matter of whether to work toward bringing this, or some other, learning event to the Orlando meeting was not resolved.

Thank You

Judith Stallman was acknowledged and thanked for her contributions and service to IBES as a Member-at-Large. Sam Cordes expressed appreciation to Lynne for his continued service in the role of Secretary. The leadership of Sam Cordes as Chair has also been appreciated; he continues on the Executive Committee as Past-Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Lynne, Secretary
August 6, 2007