

Minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting
IBE Section, AAEA
July 28, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Lynne at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2003. Lynne welcomed the 20+ IBES members present and introduced Chair-elect Lindon Robison who read the minutes from the 2002 IBES business meeting in Long Beach. Following a motion and second, the minutes were approved as read.

Secretary Fred Hitzhusen gave a brief update on membership and finances. There are 78 members of IBES with a current account balance of \$789.17. The membership is relatively diverse by age, field of specialization, geographic location and type of employer. For example, business management, marketing economic development, community development and resource economics are all represented and 20 percent of the members are not university faculty, i.e. they work for NGO's, government or in private sector.

Lynne gave an update on the IBES website and a lively discussion followed. Members suggested that papers, course syllabi, up-coming conferences, program ideas, biographic information on members and links to other web sites should all be included. No consensus emerged on the desirability of an electronic membership list and Lynne agreed to discuss this further with the AAEA staff.

Robison presented three options for IBES nominations and elections including:

1. Opening the floor to nominations and an election at this Montreal business meeting.
2. A change in the by-laws to facilitate two more members at large, one a one year and one a two year position and keep the current slate of officers for one more year.
3. Keep the current slate of officers for one more year.

A very brief discussion culminated in a motion by Otto Doeing and a second by James Sterns to keep the current slate of officers one more year to facilitate further organizational development. The motion passed unanimously. Several attempts to formulate a motion regarding elections for 2004 were not successful. However, the sense of the members present was that the By-laws should be revised to facilitate an e-mail vote for a slate of officers before the annual business meeting. Based on Section 1 of Article 5 of the current By-laws, the immediate past-chair (we will assume to be Gary Lynne) will appoint two additional members to serve on a nominating committee which in communication with the membership will nominate two or more candidates for each elective position. Section 2 of Article 5 could be changed to read "Elections shall be conducted by e-mail prior to the annual business meeting so that the new slate of officers can assume office at the conclusion of the business meeting. Tie votes for any position will be resolved by the Chair." We also seem to have a problem in Part a of Section 2, Article 5 with the September 30 deadline for preparation of a report of section activities to the AAEA Board, since they wanted the report by July 1 this year.

A motion for adjournment was moved and seconded and passed at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred J. Hitzhusen
Secretary