

**ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Executive Committees (Tri-Society Management Council)**  
**March 29, 2007**  
**Madison, WI**

The meeting was called to order by ASA President Jerry Hatfield. Members present were:

Jerry L. Hatfield, ASA President  
Kenneth J. Moore, ASA President-Elect  
Henry L. Shands, CSSA President  
William J. Wiebold, CSSA President-Elect  
Steven L. Fales, CSSA Past President  
Rattan Lal, SSSA President  
Gary A. Peterson, SSSA President-Elect  
Mary E. Collins, SSSA Past President  
Ellen Bergfeld, Executive Vice President

Also present:

Saul Winsten, Legal Counsel  
Fran Katz, Chief Operating Officer  
Michela Cobb, Director of Financial Services  
Cathy Goudreau, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Recorder

ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF)

At the March 9, 2006 ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council meeting, it was agreed to implement a new organizational approach to the Societies' development efforts. Part of the new structure was the creation of a Development Advisory Committee to ensure coordination of development efforts between the tri-Societies and ASF. As a first step in moving forward with creation of the Development Advisory Committee, the Societies' Development Officer will draft a committee charge, including scope of responsibilities, and compile a list of suggested members to present to the Executive Committees for review and approval.

Jerry Hatfield will request a status report on ASF strategic planning efforts from Cal Qualset, ASF Board Chair.

A,C,S 201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws

Prior to reviewing the March 19, 2007 version of the Agricultural and Environmental Society Services document, the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council held a philosophical discussion, involving all participants, on expectations for the new supporting organization. It was the consensus of the group that in addition to providing services, the organization should also provide a forum to discuss and implement issues that cut across ASA, CSSA and SSSA. The organization will focus on ASA, CSSA, and SSSA and will not actively recruit new member organizations at this time, however, the structure will be built to evolve over time and allow for this in the future.

The ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council discussed a list of possible names for the new supporting organization.

**ACTION:** It was moved to accept the name of Academy of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS) as the name of the new supporting organization. Seconded. Carried.

Following the philosophical discussion, the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council reviewed the March 19, 2007 version of the Agricultural and Environmental Society Services document. It was the consensus of the group that this is an internal guiding principles document. Following approval of the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, the document will be filed away. Jerry Hatfield will incorporate the suggested changes to the document, including the new name of the organization, and will forward the revised version to the Executive Committees. Saul Winsten will draft the ACSESS Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation based on today's discussion and information in the document. The Bylaws and Articles will be approved by the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council and then forwarded to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors for approval. A Policy and Procedures Manual will also need to be developed for ACSESS. Michela Cobb will begin to develop a cost estimate to implement and maintain ACSESS.

Included in the document was a suggested title change from Executive Vice President to Chief Executive Officer, which more accurately describes the position.

**ACTION:** It was moved to change the title of the Executive Vice President to the Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Seconded. Carried.

An update on this meeting and the Academy of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS) will be provided to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors during their April/May meetings. Jerry Hatfield will draft a summary document for the Boards and will work with Ken Moore on a Frequently Asked Questions sheet.

It was the consensus of the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council to meet in Madison in August in conjunction with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Budget and Finance and Executive Committee meetings. An ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council meeting will also be scheduled during the annual meeting in New Orleans, likely on Thursday afternoon.

#### A290 Headquarters

1. As a followup to discussions held during the March 2, 2007 ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council conference call, Ellen Bergfeld provided an update on a change in the organizational structure of the headquarters office. For many years the headquarters office had an Associate Executive Vice President who handled the day-to-day activities as well as the majority of personnel management. Fran Katz has recently been named to the position of Chief Operating Officer and is responsible for the day-to-day activities, as well as personnel management for the majority of staff.

2. Ellen Bergfeld provided an update on the new IT system that went live September 1, 2006. The Societies are working with the software provider to finish up some tasks. The Executive Committee will be kept apprised of progress.

3. Per previous discussions of the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council and ASA Board of Directors, Ellen Bergfeld has requested and received proposals, as well as references, for the development of potential building concepts for a new headquarters building. There has been discussion within the ASA Executive Committee that a new headquarters building be considered for the ASA Centennial project. Before launching into a building program, Ellen recommends the Societies step back and look into the possibility of a rental opportunity which may provide more flexibility. Although no formal action was taken, the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council expressed general agreement with the recommendation.

#### A651 Canadian Society of Agronomy

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the tri-Societies and the Canadian Society of Agronomy was presented to the ASA Board of Directors during the September 13, 2006 conference call. The Board provided some suggestions and headquarters subsequently developed a standard MOU format. The MOU will be presented to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards for final approval.

**ACTION:** It was moved to execute the ASA-CSSA-SSSA and Canadian Society of Agronomy Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded. Carried.

It was the consensus of the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Executive Committees/Management Council that similar MOU's be developed with other cooperating societies.

Meeting adjourned.