

**Alliance of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS) Board of Directors
Conference Call
May 22, 2008
(Call started at 9:00 AM CDT; ended at 9:45 AM)**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Hatfield. Board participants were:

Jerry L. Hatfield, Chair and ASA Past President
William J. Wiebold, Vice Chair and CSSA President
Marcus M. Alley, ASA President-Elect
Kenneth H. Quesenberry, CSSA President-Elect
Henry L. Shands, CSSA Past President
Paul M. Bertsch, SSSA President-Elect
Rattan Lal, SSSA Past President
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also participating:

Fran Katz, ASA-CSSA-SSSA Chief Operations Officer
Wes Meixelsperger, ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Financial Services
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

1. Ellen Bergfeld reported that due to an apparent misunderstanding with the Societies' attorney, the Federal forms for ACSESS 501(c)(3) status have not been filed to date. It is anticipated that the papers will be filed in the near future. Wes Meixelsperger explained that it would be most efficient to transfer employees and benefits from ASA to ACSESS on January 1, 2009.
2. Wes Meixelsperger updated the Board on progress regarding the various options for the Headquarters Office building - build a new office; purchase an existing building; renovate current building. The Board emphasized the importance of obtaining accurate assessments for all options under consideration.
3. The following documents were emailed to the Board prior to the conference call: 2008 first quarter financials for ASA, CSSA, and SSSA; Evaluation of 2007 ASA, CSSA, SSSA budgets vs. actual. Wes Meixelsperger reported the April financials show a positive trend relative to last year. The 2008 joint annual meeting will be a big factor on the budget.
4. Mike Gray, President of the Entomological Society of America, has proposed a meeting to address how to establish a regular dialogue among the leadership of professional societies with a connection to American agriculture. Ellen Bergfeld polled the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Presidents and Presidents-Elect regarding their interest in participating in the meeting, likely to be scheduled in early November. The Board expressed interest and strongly encouraged that a carefully crafted focused agenda with concrete goals be prepared in advance of the meeting.
5. Per previous email discussions, Jerry Hatfield and Rattan Lal will proceed with developing a draft position paper addressing the food crisis. Board members will assist with different topics.
6. The Director General of CIMMYT has contacted the Societies to begin a dialogue on how to improve the links between U.S. researchers with international agriculture at large and CIMMYT in particular. Representatives from CIMMYT plan to attend the annual meeting in Houston and have requested a meeting with Society leadership. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a preliminary meeting at the Houston meetings. All CGIAR Centers will be invited to participate in the discussions.

Meeting adjourned.