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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING NORTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COUNCIL

JUNE 21, 1978

The Annual business meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, by President Gerald Cole.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The minutes of the July 1, 1977 annual meeting at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York were approved as printed in the Journal. The Treasurer's report as of June 8, 1978, indicated a balance of \$2,879.24, and was approved as read.

Auditor's Report

Robert Jack, auditor, gave the following report:

The Treasurer's (Mary E. Templeton) accounts of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council were audited on June 8, 1978, by Paul Nesselroad and Robert Jack. The deposits, interest income, expenses, beginning and ending balances were found truly to reflect the items shown in the accounting records and bank statements of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council Treasurer's records as of June 8, 1978.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Auditor's report as submitted.

Membership Report

As of June 15, 1978, the total membership for 1978 was 234. The breakdown is as follows: regular members, 180; student members, 40; Distinguished Honorary Life members, 14.

Editor's Report

Dale Colyer, editor, reported the Spring Journal was at the printers and will be mailed to members next month. The Spring Journal will have a new format, same as the AAEA Journal. A new section has been added to the Journal, "Comments and Notes", which may include comments on teaching, research or any other item of interest. The Articles will be limited and the editor will review articles submitted and make decisions on the publication of "Comments and Notes", not the editorial board. Also, the Editor urged members to submit papers during the year for the purpose of distributing the editorial board's work load throughout the year. Deadline for the formal call for papers for 1979 Spring issue of the Journal is moved up to December 1.

D. Colyer reported that sixteen papers were submitted for the 1978 Spring issue, eleven of the papers were accepted. He also indicated that it was amazing as to the similarity in agreement among reviewers. Papers that are to be considered for the Proceedings Issue must be submitted to the editor by July 15.

AAEA Report

B. F. Stanton, President-elect, reported most of AAEA's operation is done in committees. There are approximately 300 members serving on committees of the AAEA. In addition to committees, the Association has three special projects:

- (1) Literature review: Two volumes have been published and the third is in the process. Purchase price is \$18.00 per volume.
- (2) Literature Retrieval system: Economics, Statistics, Cooperative Service is maintaining the retrieval system. He urged each state to have a representative to submit publications to the retrieval system. He also urged members to use the system.
- (3) Employment Registry: Originally funded by the Department of Labor, presently the Illinois Department of Labor has assumed the major portion of the cost of providing the employment service for the AAEA.

President-elect Stanton indicated that the Association was reviewing the Secretary-Treasurer's position as to the feasibility of a paid position since the Association has become so large and whether it was fair to the universities to assume this cost.

He also reported that the Association will publish a newsletter in addition to the Journal.

He announced the following location for the Annual meetings for the next three years as follow: 1978 Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, 1979 Pullman, Washington, 1980 University of Illinois, 1981 the possibility of a commercial facility and Iowa State 1985.

James Hildreth inquired about the NAEC and the possibility of having a combination host the commercial facility in 1981 or 1982. No decision was made by NAEC on hosting the meeting.

Stan Seaver indicated that there was sufficient time until 1981 and there was no need to panic at the present.

J. Hildreth reported that the questionnaire circulated at San Diego concerning the commercial facilities of the 1977 Annual meetings have been evaluated by the program committee and will be published in the Journal.

International Secretary-Treasurer, J. Hildreth said that the International meeting will be held in September 1979 at Banff, Canada. Pre-convention tours have been scheduled instead of post-convention. Glenn Johnson will be in charge of the program and he will build the program from contributed papers. An outline must be submitted by September if you plan on giving a contributed paper.

1979 Annual NAEC Meeting

Ray Smith extended an invitation to Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council members to come to the Conference Center at the University of Delaware, June 18-20, 1979. He reported that plans are now being made and that the Conference Center has air conditioning.

Resolutions

The resolutions committee consisted of Lee Day, B. F. Stanton and R. Sinclair, chairman. Chairman Sinclair presented the following resolutions:

Resolved 1. That the NAEC express our enthusiastic appreciation to Dr. David Olsen, Director of the Institute of Natural and Environmental Resources, UNA, to the

- members of his faculty and staff and especially to Rick Weldon for their efforts in making this annual-meeting a productive and enjoyable one. We are especially grateful for their personal contributions to the refreshments at the reception that added so much to the good fellowship at this event. In spite of rain that dampened our apparel, but not our spirits, this year's meeting will be long remembered by those of us who attended.
- 2. That we applaud the contributions of retiring President Jerry Cole and President-elect Johannes Delphendahl, for their untiring efforts on behalf of our association during the past year.
- 3. That we extend our gratitude to Mary Templeton, Secretary-Treasurer; Dale Colyer, Editor of the Journal; and Alan Bird, retiring chairman of the Awards Committee; for their contributions to the welfare of the NAEC. We recognize that they are worth far more than they have been paid, and we extend our sincere thanks for jobs well done.
- 4. That we commend the Rural Sociologists of the Northeast for their participation in this year's meeting and that we welcome their future participation and membership in the Northeast Agricultural Economics Council.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the resolutions.

Nominating Committee

Frank Goode and Cleve Willis, members of the nominating committee proposed the following nominees for President-elect: Dale Colyer, West Virginia and John Gates, Rhode Island. Dale Colyer was elected President-elect.

By-laws

A committee will be appointed by the president to receive the by-laws concerning the awards and any other revisions necessary to update the by-laws. The amendments to the by-laws will be presented to the membership prior to the annual meeting. The membership will act on the suggested amendments at the 1979 annual meeting.

President's Message

President Gerald Cole gave the following message:

Today I would like to share with you some thoughts and concerns about an area which sometimes tends to be overlooked in our profession — the teaching function. While it is evident from yesterday's session that curriculum revisions are taking place within our region, I am particularly concerned about the content of the revised curricula in light of enrollment limitations at Northeastern land-grant universities, changing backgrounds and basic agricultural skill levels of our undergraduate students and a changing job market for our students.

An excellent overview of the challenges we are facing, or are likely to face in the next several years, is contained in a recent

RICOP report edited by Dean Armstrong of Michigan State University.¹ I would commend this publication to all of you who share my concerns about the teaching function.

University Enrollment Quotas and Changing Student Interest — According to the RICOP report, all except two of the Northeastern land-grant universities had enrollment quotas in 1976.² In a period of severely limited resources, our region has been the leader in enrollment limitation. However, this does not preclude students changing majors after they are admitted to the University. It is my observation that there has been an increased interest among students in the Agricultural Economics discipline. The number of majors within our small Department has increased 51 percent during the past five years. This increased load combined with an increase in student numbers in Department service courses is being handled by the same number of faculty.

It is therefore imperative that we monitor our course offerings more carefully than ever to ensure that we are offering timely and useful courses to an increasing number of students.

Changing Backgrounds of Students — Today it is typical at our University for 80-90 percent of College of Agriculture undergraduates to come from a non-farm background. Are we offering an opportunity for these students to familiarize themselves with crop production periods, livestock production cycles, etc. in order that they are able to meaningfully analyze seasonal or cyclical price trends? This is a college-wide problem but is brought immediately into focus when we attempt to teach production economics, marketing or policy.

Changing Job Markets — Professional agricultural economists are increasingly being called upon at the Federal level to become members of an interdisciplinary team to analyze sensitive policy issues in such areas as nutrition, energy and transportation, as well as the more traditional agricultural policy questions. How can we be reasonably sure that agricultural economists from non-farm backgrounds understand the motivations, values and goals of the rural people they are often called upon to represent in policy matters?

Another dimension in the job market is the potential increased involvement of agricultural economists in third world countries as members of teams from AID, USDA or private foundations. In matters related to the development of rural social institutions, improved production and marketing systems or rural development issues, a knowledge of rural goals and values and basic production and marketing skills is essential.

The above challenging opportunities suggest at the least the offering of what we might have at one time considered remedial subject matter to provide our non-farm students with basic skills. A preferential approach may well be to offer experimental educational opportunities to our students in order that they may gain first-hand knowledge in necessary skill areas.

One additional comment may be in order. It also will be necessary for some professors of Agricultural Economics to be retrained in order that their technical skills be brought up to date and their course contents changed accordingly.

This ends my remarks concerning teaching, but before I relinquish the podium to your new president, I would like to

¹David L. Armstrong, editor, *Impact of Enrollments and Student Body Composition on Academic Program, Design and Delivery*, a RICOP report, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1977.

²Ibid., p. 21.

take this opportunity to personally thank the members of the Executive Committee for their excellent cooperation during the past two years. In particular, I would like to thank Johannes Delphendahl, Mary Templeton, Dale Colyer and Rich Weldon for their assistance in making this meeting possible. While this completes my term as president, I pledge to continue to serve the Council in other capacities.

G. Cole turned the meeting over to the new President Johannes Delphendahl who invited everyone to the 1979 meeting at the University of Delaware.

Respectfully submitted,
MARY TEMPLETON
Secretary-Treasurer