

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors

American Institutes for Research

1000 Thomas Jefferson St building, 2nd floor

Thursday, June 12, 2014 (2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) and Friday, June 13, 2014 (8 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Matt Hill, Kalena Cortes, Randy Reback, Ron Skinner, Robert Goertz, Jane Hannaway, Daphna Bassok, Scott Imberman, Betheny Gross, Tom Dee, Cory Koedel, Matt DiCarlo, Colin Chellman, David Figlio, Dominic Brewer, Angie Hull, Ron Zimmer, Joyce Levenson, Eric Isenberg and John See
On phone: Venessa Keesler

Agenda

Greetings and Introductions

Dominic Brewer

Review and Additions to the Agenda

President Dominic Brewer welcomed the Board to the offices of American Institutes for Research, the workplace host of AEFP immediate past president Jane Hannaway.

Joyce Levenson requested an agenda addition for an explanation about Walton Family Foundation support to AEFP. From last year's summer board meeting minutes, there appeared to be agreement that eventually a policy would be developed and reflected in the minutes regarding acceptance of support, but none were in place at the time AEFP accepted WFF funds. The executive committee reported reviewing the application with all of the issues listed by last year's board in mind, which were articulated to WFF. The WFF will not have a role in choosing the top research paper on school choice, and was purposefully situated within the Publications Committee responsibilities to assure academic quality. Since AEFP does need support, the Board needs to prioritize setting a written a policy at this meeting.

Review and approval of June and March Board meeting minutes

Several changes were noted: Tina Collins was in attendance, amend the sentence regarding 2015 conference and student participation. Jane moved to approve with changes, Scott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director contract

Dominic Brewer

The board voted to extend a 3-year appointment to Angie Hull as AEFP Executive Director, with a one-year grant agreement with the University of Missouri to buy out part of her salary and support a graduate student. The board voted to extend the current contract for three months until the grant to MU begins September 1.

Conflict of Interest policy

Angie Hull

Angie reported that the IRS 990 non-profit organization application asks if the organization has a conflict of interest policy, to assure that policy-making individuals disclose any potential conflicts when voting on issues, as well as identifying an expectation and process for stepping away from votes when a conflict is present. No changes were made to this year's AEFP conflict of interest policy from last year; AEFP board members signed the conflict of interest policies and turned them in for AEFP's records.

Annual Conference Report

Angie Hull, Dominic Brewer

Angie reported on 592 attendees at the 2014 San Antonio conference. A handout broke down attendees by type of affiliation, geography and the history of AEFP's conferences.

When AEFP signed its contract for 2015, AERA had started to move its annual spring conference up into earlier spring, while SREE remained in its early March slot. As a result, AEFP's 40th Anniversary conference is scheduled for February 26-28, 2015 in Washington D.C. We have added additional breakout rooms since that time to handle our growth, and the luncheon room can hold 700. Dom noted that the upcoming 40th provides AEFP with opportunities for fundraising and selling ads, while Angie reported both MIT Press and Routledge will have a presence, including the 2nd edition of the Handbook.

Last summer, Angie signed contracts for the 3rd week of March for Denver 2016 and Washington DC 2017. For several years, the Board and leadership discussed regularly using DC as a conference site, or a northeastern corridor city, with concern about overuse of DC since other organizations like APPAM are in DC in odd years. So, AEFP will go to DC the spring after each presidential election, every 4th year.

Committee Group Meetings 1 (Program, Finance)

Dom requested that committees think about both short and longer term thinking about the association: should it look the same? Is AEFP a conference and a network, or should it be a professional development provider, or the new AERA, new media resource, etc?

Finance Report & Recommendations

Robert Goertz

2013 990 approval
IT and managing editor contracts
2014 and 2015 budgets

Finance officer Robert Goertz reported that AEFP has a \$30,000 surplus in 2014, which helps AEFP's efforts to get to a 6-12 month reserve. AEFP has increased and set the dues structure over time, in a way that gets the organization to reserves. More of an emphasis on sponsorships relieves pressure on dues, which the committee recommends remain the same.

The Finance committee recommended that the Board set one-day conference rates for the DC 2015 conference at \$250/day or \$100 on Saturday, all events like receptions included. Robert Goertz motioned, Scott Imberman seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Finance committee recommended increased rates on the comprehensive conference fee rate for those earning over \$100,000, \$450 early, \$505 regular time period, and \$575 late, with the other rates remaining the same. Early registration is before January 15, regular is January 16-February 1, and late is after February 2. Robert Goertz motioned to approve this rate structure, Joyce Levenson seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Regarding the 2014 budget, the Board discussed setting aside \$2500 for practitioners and policymakers asked to be first time discussants, with a form filled out through Angie (Ron Skinner has a sample form). Since the budget presented reflected the full school year cost of Angie's graduate student, half that cost was removed in the 2014 budget to provide for the practitioner pot. Program Chair David Figlio suggested allowing the program committee to bring first time AEFP participants onto the program at their discretion (and foundations could support it). Robert Goertz moved as amended, David Figlio seconded, the budget passed unanimously.

The 990 discussion noted the need to update some of the information, such as current board members, and calculating Angie Hull's time spent fundraising. The Board approved filing of the 990 with those changes.

Issues set aside for later include the Finance committee's discussion of changing conference programming to ease cost increases. The Program committee had its own recommendations for 2015, including eliminating the lunch and having longer breakout sessions and also expanded receptions with business conducted at those receptions, particularly Thursday night. Also set aside is the concept of adding a small, \$10 room charge to each attendee's hotel room cost to defray the cost of the conference. Survey responses indicated little support from the membership for this.

Robert Goertz moved and Ron Zimmer seconded that AEFPP pay no overhead for grants. The motion carried unanimously.

The board adjourned for the day.

Day 2 AEFPP Summer Board of Directors meeting minutes for Friday, June 13, 2014

Committee Meetings Group 2 (Publications, Outreach, By-laws, Membership)

Committee Meetings Group 3 (Development, Awards, Nominations)

Committee Report-Outs & AEFPP Long-Term Goals

Dominic Brewer

*May require action

Program Committee Report

David Figlio

-2015 Conference Program Theme, 2014 Conference Evaluation

Reports from Development, Publications, Membership, Development, Outreach, Nominations, Awards, By-laws (immediate & long-term goals)

Committee reports:

Development Committee

Chair Jane Hannaway started by noting the generosity of the gift from Walton, and AEFPP's need for non-dues revenue. AIR and Walton willing to do it annually, and Kauffman is now interested in labor market outcomes and longitudinal research. She is talking to them about having a prize—probably research practitioner. Others on the committee are reaching out to Spencer in higher education, along with Smith Richardson, Gates, and yes associations can be supporters like CCSSO, NGA, unions (individually or collectively). Prizes need to be part of a larger gift around operating, about twice what the prize would be.

AEFP's bottom line is objective research. Some groups may be thinking about advocacy, so around topics, that could mean an endowment prize on collective bargaining, for example, regardless of the outcome of the research, with a focus on its quality since AEFPP is about the science.

The Walton paper was sent to the Publications Committee to uphold the science. The prize is not a part of AEFPP support, and such funds could be a part of sponsoring people to come to the conference. The Publications committee chair Ron Zimmer noted these issues around Walton, including due to conflict of interest, no board member can be eligible for any prizes.

Are there other ways to have strands or specific sessions supported, other than a prize? Program chair David Figlio noted that sponsoring strands adds additional constraints to the program, with others noting sponsored strands could feel as if the program were purchased.

There are other outcomes that could be used, such as scholarship to bring in particular kinds of participants, general session support, an annual lecture, candidate discussions (as long as AEFP does not support candidates due to our 501(c)3 tax status), handbook sponsorship (but hesitation by the new journal editor on special issues), a prize with two clear viewpoints (Shanker and Walton, for example).

To provide tangible values around important in-kind support, such as Syracuse' support of the journal, or AFT's annual conference personnel and printing support, AEFP staff and board members Executive Director Angie Hull, Finance Officer Robert Goertz and sustaining member/by-laws chair Ron Skinner will work on showing these in the books, as non-profits often do.

Regarding the process of development, discussion centered on the question: How is the Board involved? Leadership comes from the executive committee but with broader guidelines from the Board with procedures, with a commitment to additional communication with the Board regarding funders. Any prize will be determined by AEFP, and the funder will NOT have a say in the award.

Jane moved the following: When AEFP accepts support from an outside entity for an AEFP award, the recipient would be determined solely by the AEFP Board of Directors or a subcommittee thereof. No sitting member of the board either as an author or co-author would be eligible. Robert Goertz seconded. Betheny motioned for an amendment to say "When AEFP accepts support from an outside entity for an AEFP award, lectures, scholarships, papers, travel funds, etc" and Joyce seconded.

The final resolution was adopted unanimously: "When AEFP accepts support from an outside entity, the recipient would be determined solely by the AEFP Board of Directors or a subcommittee thereof. No sitting member of the board either as an author or co-author would be eligible, and any sponsor on the Board would recuse themselves from a vote."

In operation, the AEFP Executive Committee does the negotiating, and should include the Board concerns about the process to get the funds, noting that the conditions for accepting money are separate from procedures.

There will be two lines of effort from AEFP: Immediately and short-term to target DC attendance, and the other larger gifts, such as think tanks, foundations, private vendors (Pearson, College Board, ETS etc) by the Development committee, with the Outreach committee handling institutional members.

The membership could be polled regarding who funded their research in the past few years, to identify new places of support. AIR, Walton, Kauffman, Walton, Mathematica, Shanker were all mentioned as possibilities.

Program Committee

Program committee chair David Figlio reported the following:

The tentative theme is the use of research in policymaking, with an eye to increase the genuine use of policymakers in the session.

The committee will focus on these main items:

- 1) Enforcing the advertisement as just one presenting author.
- 2) Increase session times by 10-15 minutes by eliminating the lunchtime general session and adding to the receptions. This may mean participants skipping a session time to eat lunch OR have the poster session then, or have the poster session go right into reception, with half of the space for posters.
- 3) Increase poster session effectiveness by
 - a) having it over lunch hour, and provide less elaborate lunch (box), or
 - b) right before a reception drink coupon if in the first ½ hour, or
 - c) speed networking juniors and students,
- 4) Develop genuine practitioner involvement—Not just reaction role, but mutual generativeness, perhaps a flipped session with speakers on common theme, and researchers react to that. So guidelines for presenters may say use the time to focus on implications or ban literature reviews.
- 5) Repurpose the State of the States, with policymakers and practitioners making a 3-5 minute statement about their state/LEA/federal agency, just before one of the receptions to stimulate.
- 6) Have a dynamic speaker at a mid-day general session that would draw people in, that could include controversial speakers.

Regarding recording, there are issues of privacy not just for session authors but for those speakers in general sessions who may not yet want to be quoted. For many at the conference, the research is contract work and permission does not always come through for presentation.

Publications Committee

Publications co-chair Ron Zimmer reported the following:

- 1) Journal editor transition from Amy Schwarz from Dan Goldhaber and Tom Downes: Amy has wide discretion, and plans to work with 4 associate editors, with a goal to expand those submitting and hopefully also committing journal advisory board members to review as a responsibility of board membership.
- 2) Post-Secondary Handbook: In the conversation with Routledge during the 2nd edition revision, the co-editors removed post-secondary and recommended a separate volume, which the publisher supported and encouraged. For AEFPP, what is our liability? The process of a prospectus is developed by an editor with no expenditures by AEFPP, and submitted to the publisher who has an internal review process. From beginning to end, the process would take 2-3 years. Ron Zimmer moves to have the Board authorize the Publications committee to approach potential editors to develop a prospectus for a higher education handbook. Ron Skinner seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

The Walton award: The committee talked about the criteria, which currently says research in a journal in 2014 previously presented at AEFP or any paper that is in EFP this year, so it has to have been published in the calendar year. Note that there was other language in conference handout based on grant application. The committee would like to add the words "and reform" so the prize is broader, and give a list of potential topics, while still in the spirit of the contract. The challenge is that 2014 journal work done was completed in 2010-12, while it is important to prioritize publication for quality. Any paper presented in any year but published in 2014 is required.

Regarding the prize title, the committee wanted to expand it to 'choice & reform.' Board discussion noted concern about the cosmetic perception and protecting the integrity of the organization since reform' implies a problem with the status quo, and the committee asked about changing the name, with the understanding that it probably cannot be changed (but funders would not be sought for counsel on the matter). The word reform is a broad, and at one time AEFP/AEFA had that history of reform research, which makes the name not out of character. Although the prize is intended to not take sides, the name itself may discourage objectivity even with AEFP's focus on scientific merit over politics and willingness to not give the award in the absence of quality contenders. The Board decided that Publications co-chair Bob Bifulco will redraft letter, and the Executive Committee will fine tune and move forward.

Membership/Outreach Committee

Membership chair Matt Hill and Outreach co-chairs Matt DiCarlo and Colin Chellman reported that the two committees merged.

The committee discussed how to hook more practitioners, with deliberate use of practitioners to highlight a few sessions, and highlight practitioners on nametags as so the Board and others can identify and partner with them. The focus will be more institutional than individual outreach, and will need access to the conference registration list of individuals and institutional members. Eventually there could be a travel scholarship for international people to present.

The Education Writers' Association is important, and others could include an international strand of members from World Bank, etc., or the Aspen Institute with its Congressional staffers' fellowship program, along with CCSSO and others.

Social media outreach will continue, including Twitter, Facebook site e-blasts, and press packet ahead of time.

Nominations Committee

- 1) Online balloting: As AEFP has grown, the time and people needed to count ballots has grown as well, plus the losers have to finish out the conference. AEFP staff will explore options for online voting including technology needed and cost. In-conference voting keeps up participation, but could be electronic. Currently the by-laws call for annual conference voting.
- 2) President-Elect. The committee discussed Tom Downes and Dan Goldhaber, with a lot of discussion. One key point of eligibility is that a president-elect has to have been on the board at some point. The executive committee preference and secret ballot vote was for Dan Goldhaber, with Tom as a strong second.

Awards Committee

Awards committee co-chairs Daphna Bassok and Cory Koedel reported that the committee discussed moving away from calling the award a research grant. The dissertation award will remain and go back to \$1000. Then, the predoctoral award will be changed to up to 3 \$500 awards based on a specific paper/project, with introduction of an early career award (2-7 years, honorific, \$1000). Cory moved and Daphna seconded.

The Board discussed that it might be better to have one larger award for a graduate student, but numerous awards are appealing to broaden the pool of those coming into the organization, especially since a line on vita is important. A waiver of some conference fees could be added.

Discussion came to agreement on the young scholar award at 3 for \$500, the dissertation \$500, and the predoctoral award around \$2500/3000 depending on fundraising and keeping it a research proposal.

The motion carried on a 15-5 vote, and the co-chairs will monitor how well the process works.

Bylaws Committee

By-laws chair Ron Skinner reported nothing constitutional is pending. The hierarchy is the articles of incorporation, which have been filed in Florida with our new name, then bylaws as approved by membership, then a policy manual and potentially procedures. So, the next steps are to change bylaws to use consistent and updated language (officers, secretary/treasurer, journal name, etc.). The biggest issue is membership categories, who can vote, if you are a designee organization does it mean you can vote and hold office?

The committee intends to bring a set of suggested changes to the Board in March as a multi-iteration process, because it may cause questions that we need to work through with more input. There are no crises pending, this is work to just get in front of potential situations and think about what structure AEFP needs for the next 40 years? AEFP has fundraising issues, and so if we can clean up wording and discuss at the February Board meeting, then policies can be assembled into a policy manual.

Students cannot vote per bylaws because they're not active members. This was a revelation. The By-laws committee recommended a change to Article III 1.2, to add a sentence that "students shall be considered active members." Ron Skinner moved, Cory seconded. A motion to amend the motion by adding "but are not permitted hold office" was made by Scott, and seconded by David. The amendment failed. The underlying motion carried unanimously.

Regarding clarity on the process for soliciting gifts, Robert Goertz moved that "The president is authorized acting through the executive committee to accept gifts and grants to the Association. Upon acceptance, the President will notify the Board of the grantor/donor and the terms of such gift as a grant. Such gifts or grants must further the mission of AEFP." The motion passed unanimously. Discussion noted that gifts can be reported as anonymous to the Board.

Regarding long-term planning, perhaps the 3-5 year discussion can happen as part of the March pre-conference board meeting, but that could mean a Wednesday meeting again, although it is difficult to take all day Wednesday off to travel (or even Tuesday). That could be predicated on funding, so we can wait and see about the fundraising, and then bring recommendations from Jane and Dom about what some of those look like. A more extended discussion on Saturday would be much more desirable, but there's a 1/3 turnover of the board on Saturday. Or, the discussion could go longer Thursday morning. No decision was made regarding the timing of this discussion.

Thank you to AIR for hosting the summer board meeting. Angie requested short write-ups from committee chairs about committee happenings to include in an August newsletter by around July 1. She will put together minutes, a calendar, and eventually policy manual and procedures. Next summer's board meeting will be hosted by then-President David Figlio at Northwestern.

The Board adjourned.