

The National FFA Board of Directors and the National FFA Foundation held their winter meetings in Washington D.C. on January 17-19. A summary of the activities and the actions by both boards follows:

National FFA Board of Directors

The FFA Board of Directors, board of National Officers and Consultants to the FFA board dedicated the first day of their meeting to a review of the policy governance work that has been accomplished to-date. Catherine Raso of On-Target consulting led the group in a review of the policy governance model as well as a draft set of policies that have been developed. The board will continue its work through the spring with an expectation that the policies including the measurable results (ends) will be in place by July 1st. The policy governance work has focused on the FFA Board's four key roles and responsibilities;

1. Represent the owners of the National FFA. There is an expectation that the board has a responsibility to represent the interests, act on their behalf and communicate with the moral ownership (students, teachers, state associations, employers and industry, institutions of higher education, parents and alumni, and the community/society as a whole).
2. Lead the organization by determining the strategic direction and priorities of the organization. Will establish the measurable results that should be obtained for which beneficiaries.
3. Evaluate the work of the organization and exercise fiduciary responsibility through evaluation of results and of operations while maintaining accountability to the ownership through reporting on organization performance.
4. Use a sound governance system that establishes clear board policies that clarify roles of management and the board and articulates board values addressing structure, committees, purpose of board meetings decision making and self-evaluation.

National FFA Advisor and Board Chair Dr. Larry D. Case welcomed the following new consultants; Dr. Bryan Garton (Professor and Interim Associate Dean, Academic Programs, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources University of Missouri; Ray Nash (President-Elect National Association of Agricultural Educators, Mississippi; and Diane Amara (President-Elect National FFA Alumni Association, Wisconsin).

It was announced that National FFA President Paul Moya and National FFA Foundation Sponsors Board Chairman Jeff Simmons had been appointed to the FFA Audit Committee. They join Dennis Fiscus, Larry Case and Marion Fletcher.

The National FFA Officers announced their legacy platforms including teacher recruitment, community outreach, public advocacy, urban student outreach, and building support for the agricultural industry.

The board received an extensive report on the assessment of the current economic climate and its potential impact on FFA operations and programs. It was reported that the current recession could translate into reductions of key revenue streams for the FFA including;

1. Corporate and individual giving to the FFA Foundation. (Last year the major auto manufacturers contributed \$2.8 million).
2. Merchandise sales (FFA jackets, hats, t-shirts, awards, etc.)
3. Magazine and television advertising
4. Attendance at FFA leadership conferences and national convention
5. Exhibitors at the Career Show
6. Investment income

Management reported on the steps that were initiated last fall including;

1. freezing of 15 open staff positions,
2. reduction of travel expenditures by 20%,
3. freezing \$750,000 of capital expenditures
4. review of all foundation supported programs.

It is hoped that up to \$2 million in reduced expenditures can be realized to offset any declines in revenues that the organization or the foundation may experience during the year.

Board Actions and Additional Reports

1. Accepted the National FFA Organization's Audit for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008.
2. Recommend to the delegates at the 82nd National FFA Convention to establish dues for the 2010 school year at \$7.
3. Accepted the recommendations of the 7th-9th Grade Opportunities Task Force and Requested that the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees consider securing special project sponsorship for two new programs:
 - a. 7th-9th Grade Parliamentary Procedure Conduct of Meetings event
 - b. 7th-9th Grade General Agriculture Knowledge event
4. Sent to the delegates at the 82nd National FFA Convention the recommendations of the Awards Advisory Committee to change the earnings requirements for the American, State and Chapter FFA Degrees.
5. Awards Advisory Chairman Joel Larsen reported that meat goats will be added and slaughter cattle dropped in this year's livestock CDE. Note: Scores from the meat goat section will not be used to determine team or individual standings in 2009, they will be used beginning in 2010.
6. Chairman Larsen also reported that the H.O. Sargent award program has been suspended for 2009 and has been sent back for a full program review.
7. Alumni President Sam Atherton reported on Alumni Association activities including the results from a recent task force identifying key opportunities for realizing significant alumni member and affiliate growth.
8. Adopted a set of board governance global and sub-ends (results). Note: Significant work remains as operational definitions, measurable results desired and monitoring reports will be developed and considered later this spring. Example: "How will the National FFA show it is helping students achieve Premier leadership, personal growth or career success?"

Global End - "Because the National FFA Organization exists *Students in agricultural education succeed*"

Sub-Ends -

2.1 Our highest priority is that **students** achieve:

- - premier leadership skills
 - personal growth
 - and career success

2.2 **Teachers and state associations** have engaged and motivated students

2.3 **Employers and industry** have better employees and better performance

2.4 **Institutions of higher education** have engaged students and student leaders

2.5 **Parents and alumni** are motivated to enhance student learning

2.6 The **community/society** has engaged, thoughtful citizens and enjoys increased awareness of the importance of agriculture

9. Forwarded to the delegates of the 82nd National FFA Convention a proposal submitted by the Illinois Association to amend the National FFA Constitution.
10. Received reports from the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), American Association of Agricultural Educators (AAAE), National Association of State Agricultural Educators (NASAE), Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and the National Council for Agricultural Education.
11. Accepted the recommendation to accept the following individuals to serve as CDE Superintendents; Mr. Von Peavy, Georgia Department of Education for Agricultural Mechanics; Dr. Kimberly Bellah, Tarleton State University for Creed Speaking; Mr. Van Smith, Principal Billingsley High School for Livestock Evaluation.
12. New Jersey Executive Secretary Erin Coble and FFA Chapter Advisor Jenna Clark from Arizona were appointed delegate coordinators.
13. Accepted the reports and commended the work of the delegate committees of the 81st National FFA Convention.

14. Adopted the convention delegate recommended change to the constitution by adding a service requirement for chapter, state and American degree requirements, effective 2011.
15. Colorado Executive Secretary Kevin Ochsner was appointed to a three-year term as an adult consultant to the National FFA Officer Selection process.
16. The Board commended the COO and staff for their proposal to reduce expenditures and further requested that the COO continue to conduct an examination of programs and services to see where costs can be reduced while continuing to accomplish the goals of the program or service in an effective and efficient manner.

National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case recognized retiring Board members Dr. Tom Dormody, Dr. Ike Kershaw and Dennis Fiscus for their service to the FFA.

It was announced that the summer meeting of the National FFA Board of Directors would be August 2-3 in Indianapolis.

National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees

Board Actions and Reports

1. The following new members were welcomed to the Board of Foundation Trustees: Jeff Simmons (2009 Sponsor Board Chairman); Vern Hawkins (2010 Sponsor Board Chairman); Alan Spencer (State Executive Secretary Iowa); Ray Nash (President Elect NAAE, Mississippi); and Dr. Brian Myers (AAAE, University of Florida).
2. Sponsor Board Chairman Jeff Simmons provided a cautionary yet optimistic report from the FFA Foundation Sponsor Board including the announcement of a \$14.5 million goal for 2009.
3. Accepted a preliminary budget for 2009 that provides for sponsorship of all core FFA programs including, but not limited to all CDEs, Proficiency and Chapter awards, NLCSO, State Presidents Conference in addition to a variety of other core programs.
4. National FFA President Paul Moya, Sponsor Board Chairman Jeff Simmons, Sponsor Board Chairman Elect Vern Hawkins join Treasurer Marion Fletcher and Board President Larry Case on the Foundation Audit Committee for 2009.
5. Governance Committee Chairman Joel Larsen gave a committee report identifying several key areas that the Foundation needs to address including;
 - a. Board structure and composition
 - b. Drawing clearer lines between the Foundation and the FFA Organization
 - c. Review of Foundation and FFA organization's structure, combine or more formally split?
 - d. Are AERO adequately represented on the Foundation Board
 - e. Review of the foundation's articles of incorporation and bylaws
 - f. Communications between sponsor board representatives and foundation trustees
 - g. A whole series of policy governance topics, not unlike what the FFA organization is moving through.
 - h. Visioning priorities of the Foundation need to be established.
 - i. How does the foundation board of trustees consider proposals from all AEROs.
6. Move to form a study committee to assemble a comprehensive review of the Foundation structure, operations, and governance. Consider available options with a recommendation due by May 1, 2009. The study committee will be comprised of Larry Gundrum, BKD Auditors, Baker & Daniels Attorney, Foundation Board Trustees and Senior FFA Staff. The Priority of the investigation will consider splitting the organizations with distinct board and CEO/COO, merging the FFA organization and Foundation as well as consideration of other structures.
7. Foundation Executive Director Dennis Sargent gave a Foundation Office report identifying how the foundation has adjusted operations and program services to meet the current economic challenges.
8. Approved the FFA's request to seek special project sponsorship for the 7th-9th grade Parliamentary Procedure and General Agriculture Knowledge events.

9. The board passes a resolution stating that it is expected that National and State FFA Foundations create, support and maintain a collaborative relationship particularly, but not limited to, sponsor solicitation and recognition.
10. Wilbur Chancellor, Sally Shomo and Brett Evans were elected to the Executive Committee. They join Larry Case, Steve Brown, Marion Fletcher, Jeff Simmons, Vern Hawkins and National FFA President Paul Moya.
11. Brett Evans was elected Vice President for the 2009 year.

The next scheduled meeting of the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees is scheduled for August 5th in Indianapolis.

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The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

**National FFA Board of Directors and
National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees
Meeting Summaries
August 2009**

The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees met in Indianapolis Aug. 2-5. Meeting with the Board of Directors were the National FFA Officers and National FFA Board of Consultants. Members of the national FFA staff met with both boards. Below are highlights of the meetings.

National FFA Board of Directors

New Directors: Jim Barbee, NV; Curt Lucas, KY; Keith Cox, SC; and Brian Myers, FL.

New Consultant: Wash Jones, TX.

Actions Taken

- The process of developing a new set of FFA board operational policies will continue, with a draft to be ready by Sept. 2, 2009. The draft operational policies will be distributed to the profession for review and input following the September meeting. Final consideration is targeted for January 2010.
- The board authorized creation of a board-designated Core Programs Reserve Fund. These reserves can be accessed to provide continuity of core educational programs that may lapse in securing special project funding through the National FFA Foundation.
- The board approved the 2009-2010 National FFA Organization budget, including a 3% Core Program reserve set-aside, no Operating Reserve set-aside, no Ag Ed Opportunity Fund set-aside and a \$49 official FFA jacket retail price.
- The board approved the National FFA Alumni Association 2009-2010 Program of Activities
- The board approved a proposal to extend the National Program Affiliation Fee pilot for an additional year during 2009-2010.
- The board approved formation of a Communication Information Collection Workgroup. Members selected to serve are Brian Myers, Hannah Crossen, Ray Nash, Diane Amara and Zelia Wiley. The group will design a system to collect information from stakeholder groups on matters affecting FFA direction and operations. A progress report will be made to the board at its October 2009 meeting. The intent is to have a system in place to collect information for a full report to the January 2010 board meeting.
- \$85,000 was appropriated from capital reserves to procure automated network monitoring equipment/software, perform network penetration/security assessment, purchase an additional server, provide for minimal/emergency desktop/laptop replacement and provide data center power and control equipment for existing servers.
- \$360 in voluntary contributions was collected for a memorial to Pete Settle.

National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees

New Trustees: John Rakestraw, CO; Jim Barbee, NV; and Curt Lucas, KY.

Actions Taken

- The trustees approved replacing the words “Chief Operating Officer of the National FFA Organization, Inc.” with “Executive Director” in the National FFA Foundation By-Laws Article X: National FFA Foundation Sponsors under number 2 and number 6. The intent of the By-Laws change is to clearly separate the management of the National FFA Foundation and the National FFA Organization.
- The trustees accepted committee recommendations to disseminate proposed changes to Article III, number 1, Board composition, to the field and legal counsel for review and comment, with final approval expected at the January board meeting. More information will follow on this topic.
- The trustees directed that development be started on a new position description for the National FFA Foundation Executive Director and on new National FFA Foundation administrative policies in preparation for a search to select a fulltime National FFA Foundation Executive Director. Approval of the position description and policies by the Foundation Board of Trustees is expected by the conclusion of the 2009 National FFA Convention.
- The trustees approved in concept a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation and directed it be sent to staff for further review and clarification. Final approval is anticipated in January 2010.
- The trustees approved proposals to seek additional special project funding for the CASE project (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education). The proposals include course development for:
 - Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Course Development
 - Agricultural Business, Research and Development Course Development
 - Agricultural Technology and systems Course Development
 - Animal and Plant Biotechnology Course Development
 - Food Science and Safety Course Development
 - Natural Resources and Environmental Science Course DevelopmentThese courses will be added to the existing foundational courses in Animal Science and Plant Science being field tested in 2009-10.
- The trustees approved authorization to seek special project funding for the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) Annual Conference beginning in 2009.

Reports

- Report of the 2008 Audit Committee led by Joe VandeBosche and Beth Pagett of BKD CPA's and Advisors
- Report on a Grant-making Foundation Model by Tom Landis
- Report of On-Line External Survey Results by Robin Kim with Adayana