

**Minutes
National FFA Board of Directors
and National FFA Officers Meeting
Washington, D.C.
July 20 - 23, 2007**

Board of Directors:

Larry D. Case, Chairperson of the Board and Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Steve Brown, U.S. Department of Education Representative; State FFA Executive Secretary, Missouri FFA Association, Jefferson City, Missouri

Thomas J. Dormody, U.S. Department of Education Representative; Professor and Academic Dept. Head, Agricultural and Extension Education, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Joel Larsen, State Supervisor, Program Specialist Agricultural Education, Minnesota Department of Education, Roseville, Minnesota

Ike Kershaw, State Supervisor, Assistant Director/State FFA Advisor, Ohio Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio

Steven Gass, Program Consultant, State FFA Advisor, Tennessee Dept. of Education, Nashville, Tennessee

Dennis Fiscus, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education/State FFA Advisor, Arizona State Dept. of Education, Phoenix, Arizona

Jason Larison, U.S. Department of Education Representative, Ag Ed Instructor/FFA Advisor, Holton High School, Holton, Kansas

Robert Calvin, U.S. Dept. of Education Representative, Ag Ed Instructor/FFA Advisor, Troy Buchanan High School, Troy, Missouri

Officers of the Board of Directors:

Larry D. Case, National FFA Advisor and CEO; Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary; Education Program Specialist, Agriculture, Division of High School, Postsecondary and Career Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Marion Fletcher, National FFA Treasurer; Supervisor for Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas

National FFA Officers:

Beau Williamson, National FFA President, California

Kacy Baugher, National FFA Secretary, Illinois

Jamie Cecil, National FFA Central Region Vice President, Colorado

Coty Back, National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Kentucky

Janette Barnard, National FFA Western Region Vice President, Arizona

Jennifer Himburg, National FFA Southern Region Vice President, Alabama

Consultants to the Board:

Carl Igo, Consultant (AAAE), Montana State University, Agricultural Education, Bozeman, Montana

Barry Croom, Consultant (AAAE), North Carolina University, Agricultural and Extension Education, Raleigh, North Carolina

Bobby Torres, Consultant (AAAE), Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

Kevin Fochs, Consultant (NAAE), Region I, Livingston, Montana

Sally Shomo, Consultant (NAAE), Region VI, Staunton, Virginia

Norman Gay, Consultant (Past President, National FFA Alumni Assoc.), Perry, Georgia

Monte Ladner, Consultant (President National FFA Alumni Assoc.), Carthage, Mississippi

Nancy Headrick, Consultant (NASDCTEc) State Director, Assistant Commissioner, Jefferson City, Missouri

Michael Brammer, Executive Secretary, PA FFA Association, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Keith Cox, State FFA Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Florence, South Carolina

Ronnie Ansley, Consultant (President Elect, National FFA Alumni Council), Raleigh, North Carolina (present for portion of meeting)

Zelia Wiley, Assistant Dean for Diversity Programs, Advisor – MANRRS Chapter, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

Others present for all or portions of the meeting:

Doug Loudenslager, Chief Operating Officer, National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana

Bill Stagg, Director Information Services, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Tom Kapostasy, Sr. Director Business Services, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Will Waidelich, Sr. Director Research, Development and Sponsored Programs, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Tony Small, Sr. Director Education, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Kent Schescke, Sr. Director of Development, National FFA Organization, Alexandria, Virginia

Dennis Sargent, Sr. Director, National FFA Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana

Vicki Settle, Director Financial Services, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Frank Saldana, Sr. Team Leader Alumni and Volunteerism, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Dale Crabtree, Director Convention and Related Events, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Bobby Donahue, Team Leader Individual Giving, National FFA Foundation

Josh Bledsoe, Sr. Team Leader, Leadership Delivery, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, Indiana

Bill Fleet, Independent Consultant, National FFA Organization/National FFA Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana

Amanda Cloud, USDE Student Appointee, U. S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Bill Munns, Intern, NAAE, Alexandria, Virginia

Pam Holbert, Executive Assistant, National FFA Headquarters Operations, Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, July 21, 2007 – Omni Shoreham Hotel

New Board Member Orientation

Sunday, July 22, 2007 – Omni Shoreham Hotel

Special Reports

Committee Meetings

Monday, July 23, 2007

National FFA President, Beau Williamson, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. (EDT).

Reflections

Reflections were given by Coty Back, Eastern Region Vice President, Frenchburg, Kentucky.

Review of Procedures

National FFA Advisor, Larry Case, reviewed board procedures.

Report of National Officer Team

Comments were shared by National Officers Kacy, Jamie and Jennifer on partnership tours, state conventions and NLCSO activities to date.

MOTION: Moved by Steve Brown seconded by Steve Gass and carried to commend the National Officers for a job well done to date and best wishes for the remainder of their year of service.

Seating of New Members

National FFA Advisor, Larry Case, declared Joel Larsen, Rob Calvin and Zelia Wiley duly seated on the National FFA Board of Directors and Consultants.

Pin Presentation

Beau Williamson presented pins to new board members, Joel Larsen and Rob Calvin; and to consultant, Zelia Wiley.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Janette Barnard (Dennis Fiscus) seconded by Coty Back (Joel Larsen) and carried to approve National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers Meeting Minutes (February 5-8, 2007).

National FFA Alumni Report

Alumni President, Monte Ladner, shared the National FFA Alumni Program of Activities for 2007-2008. He was particularly proud of the twelve additional WLC Scholarships offered which is a record for Alumni. (*Attachment #1*)

At this time, Larry Case, challenged everyone to work to get three students per year from local FFA chapters to major in agricultural education.

Audit Committee Report

Steve Gass reminded committee members of meetings scheduled for September and December of this year.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Rob Calvin) seconded by Janette Barnard (Tom Dormody) and carried to accept the National FFA Organization Audit Committee Report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Marion Fletcher, reported on current financials.

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil (Steve Gass) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Tom Dormody) and carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

Research Committee Report

Chair, Tom Dormody, shared that beginning with this meeting a Zoomerang Online Survey will be used for board meeting evaluation. Will Waidelich will assist with developing questions for the survey.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Ike Kershaw) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Jason Larison) and carried The Research Committee has identified the following *Research Priority Areas* and *Key Research Questions* from the National Research Agenda – Agricultural Education and Communication as priorities to the National FFA Organization:

Agricultural Leadership

RPA 1: Develop and disseminate effective leadership education programs.

- How can leadership education programs be designed and implemented to increase the leadership capacity of youth, communities, higher education, agribusiness and allied organizations in domestic and international settings?

RPA 2: Support leadership opportunities for underrepresented populations.

- How will the inclusion of underrepresented populations enhance leadership capacity in youth, communities, higher education, agribusiness and allied organizations in domestic and international settings?

Agricultural Education in Schools

RPA 1: Enhance program delivery models for agricultural education.

- What types of program delivery models best respond to the changing population?

- How do agricultural education program delivery models enhance food, fiber and natural resource systems?
- How do the components of an agricultural education program influence student success and overall program quality?

RPA 5: Determine the effects of agricultural education instruction.

- How does student participation in agricultural education programs contribute to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success?
- How do agricultural education programs contribute to student achievement and performance?
- How do quality agricultural education programs contribute to school and community vitality?

The Research Committee further recommends that the National FFA Organization encourage other Agricultural Education Related Organizations (AEROs) to conduct research in these priorities.

For future meetings, Research Committee members requested that their meeting be scheduled earlier in the day. The 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. timeframe doesn't allow members to be as alert and productive as an earlier time might allow.

Policy Committee Report

Steve Brown gave the Policy Committee Report.

MOTION: Moved by Kacy Baugher (Tom Dormody) seconded by Coty Back (Steve Gass) and carried to adopt as policy the following:

- II. OPERATIONS, D. General, 02. Communications, f. The National FFA Organization will maintain and administer a national database of chapter advisor email addresses in a manner that provides essential services and information, facilitates transactions, respects privacy and supports state association activities.
 - a. The collection of advisor email addresses will be on a voluntary basis.
 - b. Each state FFA association will be provided ready access to an updated list of its respective advisors' email addresses.
 - c. National staff will institute procedures that will regulate the frequency, volume, platforms, structure, language and content value of email communications distributed to chapters.
 - d. The National FFA Organization will not distribute chapter advisor email addresses to any other organization, agency or third party.
 - e. Advisors will be given opportunities to "opt out" of receiving various categories of email communications.
 - f. State associations will receive copies of all email communications sent to its advisors.
 - g. Information distributed to advisors via email will be made available on the National FFA website www.ffa.org as appropriate.
 - h. The use of advisor email addresses will comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding email and SPAM.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Joel Larsen) seconded by Janette Barnard (Tom Dormody) and carried to adopt the board policies for Emergency Management as proposed with the exception of Item #1. The staff is requested to clarify whether the National FFA Organization or the Department of Education has authority regarding the line of succession for the National FFA Advisor (CEO) or fulfillment of his duties. Staff may resubmit to the board a new provision for CEO succession based on this clarification.

MOTION: Moved by Kacy Baugher (Rob Calvin) seconded by Coty Back (Dennis Fiscus) and carried to amend the National FFA Policy and Procedure Handbook Division II. Section D. General, by adding Item 16, Volunteer Release, Waiver and Assumption of Risk to read, “The National FFA Organization will create release and waiver of liability procedures for volunteers who desire to participate as a volunteer for organization events and engage in any and all activities related to being a volunteer for organization events.”

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Ike Kershaw) seconded by Jamie Cecil (Tom Dormody) and carried to authorize appointment of a steering committee to examine and recommend optimum adaptation of the Carver Model of Board Governance to National FFA Board of Directors operations. The Steering Committee will present a report of its findings to the January 2008 meeting of the board. Steering Committee consists of Tom Dormody (Chair), Ike Kershaw (Vice Chair), Steve Brown, Dennis Fiscus, Larry Case, Doug Loudenslager

MOTION: Moved by Coty Back (Tom Dormody) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Steve Gass) and carried (vote by show of hands; 7 in favor and 1 opposed) to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the National FFA Organization and the U.S. Department of Education, and forward it to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education for approval. (*MOU Attachment #2*)

Background/Purpose: The new Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Education will provide for nominees to fill USDE positions on the Board of Directors. The updated memorandum will stipulate that one of the four positions is to be filled by a representative of the agriculture industry, and it will reduce the number of agriculture teacher-filled positions from two to one. It will also remove regional rotation as a requirement for nominees.

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil seconded by Janette Barnard to amend Board Policy Handbook: II. OPERATIONS, A. Governance, 02. Board Consultants, item b. to read: “The National FFA Board has authorized NAAE to select three consultants to the board of directors, each to serve a one-year term” and item g. to read: “The FFA will pay expenses for six consultants (three NAAE and three AAAE) at the January and July Board meetings.”

Background/Purpose: In approving a new Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Education, the National FFA Board will remove one position on the board of directors currently allocated to a teacher representative designated by NAAE. This motion will retain the current number of teachers serving with the board by increasing the number of teacher consultants from two to three.

There were many comments on whether to change the term of service. After much discussion, **Jennifer Himburg moved to amend** the motion by changing the verbiage *one-year term* to read *one-year term renewable up to three years*. After more discussion, **Jennifer withdrew the motion to amend**.

MOTION: The main motion as listed above was sustained by Rob Calvin and Steve Gass and carried.

Education Committee Report

Jason Larison gave the Education Committee Report.

MOTION: Moved by Janette Barnard (Steve Brown) seconded by Jamie Cecil (Dennis Fiscus) and carried to appoint Joel Larsen as the 2007 – 2010 Chairman for the Awards, Recognition and CDE Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Moved by Coty Back (Steve Brown) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Joel Larsen) and carried that Robert Calvin be appointed as the 2007 – 2010 Representative from the National FFA Organization Board of Directors (USDE Representative) to the Awards, Recognition and CDE Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Moved by Janette Barnard (Jason Larison) seconded by Jennifer Himburg (Steve Brown) and carried to approve for the receipt of the American FFA Degree, the attached list of candidates, submitted by state associations and verified as meeting all minimum requirements for 2007. Further move that the National FFA Staff conduct the American FFA Degree appeal process for any applications received which did not meet the minimum qualifications and report to the Governing Committee of the Board of Directors for consideration as per board policy. (*Attachment #3*)

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Rob Calvin) seconded by Janette Barnard (Steve Brown) and carried that the National FFA Organization bestows the Honorary American FFA – Teacher Degrees as listed at the 2007 National FFA Convention. (*Attachment #4*)

MOTION: Moved by Coty Back (Tom Dormody) seconded by Jamie Cecil (Dennis Fiscus) and carried that the National FFA Organization bestows the Honorary American FFA – Other Degrees as listed at the 2007 National FFA Convention. (*Attachment #5*)

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil (Steve Gass) seconded by Janette Barnard (Tom Dormody) and carried that the National FFA Organization bestows Distinguished Service Citations, as listed, at the 2007 National FFA Convention. (*Attachment # 6*)

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Steve Gass) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Rob Calvin) and carried that the National FFA Organization bestows VIP Citations, as listed, at the 2007 National FFA Convention. (*Attachment #7*)

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil (Steve Brown) seconded by Janette Barnard (Steve Gass) and carried to accept the 2007-2008 National FFA Alumni Program of Activities. (*See Attachment #1*)

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Dennis Fiscus) seconded by Janette Barnard (Tom Dormody) and carried to provide a training experience for the national officers after their year of service that would continue to develop their potential for success by recreating a plan for their continued development and transition back into life after their year of service as a national officer. This is requested as a new special project with the provision that if sponsorship is not secured that consideration be given for core funding for one year.

MOTION: Moved by Coty Back (Steve Brown) seconded by Jamie Cecil (Rob Calvin) and carried that the organization uses caution when using terminology other than agricultural education.

Finance Committee Report

Steve Gass presented the Finance Committee Report.

MOTION: Moved by Kacy Baugher (Steve Brown) seconded by Jennifer Himburg (Joel Larsen) and carried to adopt the attached Finance Committee Charter as board policy. (*Attachment #8*)

MOTION: Moved by Janette Barnard (Dennis Fiscus) seconded by Coty Back (Steve Brown) and carried to have CEO appoint a taskforce of state staff, teachers and others to study and recommend an affiliate chapter dues structure option to the board by July, 2008 and appropriate up to \$40,000 from operating reserves to cover any costs incurred.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg seconded by Kacy Baugher to authorize staff to engage a university or other research firm to identify the characteristics of high engagement versus low engagement agricultural education programs, as indicated by FFA membership percentage and SAE participation percentage. Appropriate up to \$100,000 from operating reserves to fund this study which must provide a final report by July 1, 2008.

MOTION: Jennifer Himburg moved and Jamie Cecil seconded to refer the above motion to the Research Committee. **Motion failed.**

MOTION: Moved by Kacy Baugher (Joel Larsen) seconded by Jamie Cecil (Dennis Fiscus) and carried (vote by show of hands; 6 in favor and 2 opposed) to amend the original motion by changing July 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED: Sustained by Joel Larsen seconded by Dennis Fiscus and carried to authorize staff to engage a university or other research firm to identify the characteristics of high engagement versus low engagement agricultural education programs, as indicated by FFA membership percentage and SAE participation percentage. Appropriate up to \$100,000 from operating reserves to fund this study which must provide a final report by January 1, 2009.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Dennis Fiscus) seconded by Coty Back (Steve Gass) to recommend to 2008 National Convention FFA student delegates to consider and approve setting member dues for the 2009-2010 year at \$7. Vote by show of hands; in favor 4, opposed 4. **Motion fails.**

MOTION: Moved by Kacy Baugher (Dennis Fiscus) seconded by Jennifer Himburg (Tom Dormody) and carried (vote by show of hands; 5 in favor, 2 opposed) to set the 2008 National FFA Convention registration fee at \$50, with a discounted \$40 fee for those who pre-register for convention and show proof of supporting the convention by registering their hotel space through the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association hotel block. Further, move to have staff identify and implement for the 2008 convention at least \$250,000 of cost reductions or other revenue increases required to assure that the convention will be operated with excess revenues.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Steve Gass) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Dennis Fiscus) and carried to instruct staff to keep the National FFA Career Show as a separate program with its own positive excess revenues goal, and to NOT include it as part of the calculation of revenues and expenses considered in setting registration fees for the National FFA Convention, which is also expected to comply with board policy requiring a break-even financial performance on average across any 5-year period.

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil (Jason Larison) seconded by Coty Back (Joel Larsen) and carried to accept the 2007-2008 National FFA Organization budget, including any changes required by other board actions at the July 2007 board meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Tom Dormody) seconded by Coty Back (Steve Gass) and carried accept the 2007-2008 National FFA Organization Alumni budget, including any changes required by other board actions at the July 2007 board meeting

MOTION: Moved by Janette Barnard (Joel Larsen) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Jason Larison) and carried to appropriate up to \$49,800 from operating reserves to engage a cost accounting expert to complete the attached study. (*Attachment #9*)

MOTION: Moved by Jamie Cecil (Jason Larison) seconded by Janette Barnard (Rob Calvin) and carried to appropriate \$260,000 from reserves to replace staff

computers, implement a document scanning and file archiving system with increased electronic storage capacity, purchase and implement an e-mail management system and purchase a smartcard ID badge printer for convention security use.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Tom Dormody) seconded by Janette Barnard (Dennis Fiscus) and carried to recommend to delegates that dues for 2008/2009 school year be set at \$5.

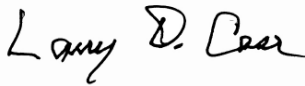
MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Himburg (Tom Dormody) seconded by Kacy Baugher (Joel Larsen) and carried to commend the National FFA Center Staff for their outstanding work during changes at the Center, construction of a new Merchandise Center and the subsequent move.

Comments from Retiring Board Members

Comments were shared by Barry Croom, Norman Gay, Mike Brammer, Sally Shomo and Kevin Fochs.

Dr. Case thanked everyone for their participation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was adjourned by Beau Williamson at 1:40 p.m. (EST).



Larry D. Case, National FFA Advisor and CEO



C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Exec. Secretary