

**Michigan FFA Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2008**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm in the Room 338 of the Natural Resources Room at Michigan State University by State President, Alex Henry.

There were 27 members and guests present, including: Alex Henry, Amanda Sollman, Kate Krepps, Dustin Grezeszak, Joe Ankley, Bailey Albright, Brittany Armbruster, Nate Deschepper, Andrew Walker, Dr. Randy Showerman, Steve Beattie, Carrie Preston, Megan Merrill, Tammy Hyatt, Kevin Nugent, Cathy LaLonde, Brian Kiesling, Dr. Eddie Moore, Bart Marshall, Beth Stuever, Charles Scovill, Charles Snyder, Dave Wyrick, Floyd Beneker, Alyn Kiel, Dustin Baker, and Michelle Sidel.

Members absent included: Heather Dexter, Tom Smith, and Megan Hirschman.

II. Opening Ceremonies

Opening ceremonies were conducted by the 2007-2008 Michigan FFA State Officer Team.

III. Secretary's Report

The minutes for the last meeting were submitted by State Secretary, Amanda Sollman, for review.

Bailey Albright moved that the Student Board accept the Secretary's Report. Second. Motion carried.

Bart Marshall moved that the Adult Board sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by State Treasurer, Kate Krepps, for review. Kate reported that the Association's account balance at the end of February was \$139,659.06. There is still at least \$52,000.00 in outstanding bills for State Convention.

Nate Deschepper moved that the Student Board accept the Treasurer's Report. Second. Motion carried.

Megan Merrill moved that the Adult Board sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

V. Michigan FFA Association

a. State Officer Report

State President, Alex Henry, reported that State Convention went very well. The feedback has been exceptionally good. The 2008-2009 State Officer Team was selected and inducted to consist of:

President: Dustin Baker
Vice President: Andrea Bommarito
Secretary: Jillian Holdwick
Treasurer: Ryan Green
Reporter: Kaitlyn Hard
Sentinel: Clint Steketee
Region I VP: Aaron Balowski
Region II VP: Chris Sanford
Region III VP: Julia Voelker
Region IV VP: Elizabeth Khrovsky
Region V VP: Marie Hruby
Region VI VP: Maria James

The delegate's trip to the Capitol went very well. They honored three representatives/senators and had a number of additional legislators attend. Additionally, the delegate business session went well, with the delegates voting on a number of constitutional and policy changes. The outcomes of those votes were:

- Constitutional Amendment for Seventh Region=Fail
- Constitutional Amendment for National Delegation to Correspond with National FFA=Pass
- Constitutional Amendment to Delete Projects Consultant and Add State Executive Secretary-Treasurer to Board of Directors=Pass
- Constitutional Amendment to Not Allow Junior High Chapter Voting Privileges=Pass
- Policy Change to Allow Junior High Members to Wear (but Not Make Mandatory) the FFA Jacket=Pass

In the next few months, the state officers will continue to be busy. They will be conducting more business and industry visits and will be presenting workshops at the Michigan Farm Bureau Career Conference to be held April 2nd.

The team also has some goals for before their term is out, including: updating the state website with additional features for advisors and students, creating a state Day of Service, and working on the development of a Collegiate FFA chapter.

b. State Advisor Report

State Advisor, Dr. Randy Showerman, also reported that State Convention was very successful for all involved.

In light of recent questions regarding decision making within the Michigan FFA, Dr. Showerman pointed out a few highlights. As a whole, the Association follows

the guidelines set out by the Constitution. The Board of Directors makes ‘big picture’ decisions. Day-to-day decisions are made by the office staff.

In terms of budget and money for the Association, Dr. Showerman noted that Dean Jeffrey Armstrong has agreed to transfer \$24,000 from the Dean’s Office to the FFA account in order to cover the short-comings of this year’s state budget as well as \$80,000 annually starting July 1.

Two positions have been posted for Ag Education in the CARRS Department. Both a Specialist position and a Tenure Associate Professor position have been posted. The deadline for those is April 15.

Dr. Eddie Moore moved to amend the motion so that it stated Chair, Tom Smith, one other Finance Committee member, State President, and State Secretary. Having no second, motion failed.

Following discussion about state budget and recent legislative processes, Tammy Hyatt moved that the Finance Committee Chair, one other member of the Finance Committee, and two State Officers meet with the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to discuss finances related to the Michigan FFA. Second. Motion carried.

Joe Ankley moved that the Student Board sustain the Adult Board’s motion. Second. Motion carried.

c. State Executive Secretary Report

State Executive Secretary, Dave Wyrick, also reported that State Convention went well. He noted that the State Officer Interviews went very well and thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and assistance. Mr. Wyrick noted that Alex Henry and Amanda Sollman met with the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and that that meeting went well.

Mr. Wyrick asked that members of the board e-mail him about how they thought the format of having committee meetings prior to the business meeting worked for them.

Ag Skills contests will be held April 18th and the state officers will be having their DTE visit on May 5-6.

VI. Michigan FFA Alumni

Alumni President, Floyd Beneker, reported that the Alumni Annual meeting was held in February at Byron High School and had about 120 attendants. He said that Dave Armbruster was elected as the new Alumni President, as well as the remainder of the Alumni officers. The Alumni made enough from both the Silent and Live Auctions to cover all of their scholarships.

The Alumni also hosted the dance at State Convention and it went well. The t-shirt sale did not go as well as was expected and the Board discussed other possible outlets for selling the remainder of the shirts.

Floyd also noted that the deadline for the MSU CANR/Alumni scholarship is due April 1 and he explained how that scholarship works.

VII. Michigan FFA Foundation

There was no Foundation report.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

Chair, Tom Smith, was absent, but committee member Bart Marshall reported that the committee discussed mainly what was discussed in regards to Michigan State University and budgets during the State Advisor Report.

b. Awards and Activities Committee

i. Bronze Proficiency Award

The committee recommends that items 1, 3, and 4 of the proposal remain the same. For item 2, the committee recommends that a bronze award be added and that, in the case of unfinished or unacceptable applications, it should be up to the discretion of the judges to award bronze or no award. The committee also recommends adding comment cards to the judging process in order that students can learn what to improve upon in the future.

Beth Stuever moved to accept the recommendation with additions as stated. Second. Motion carried.

Dustin Grezeszak moved to accept the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

ii. Michigan FFA Academic Excellence Award

The committee recommended the noted changes on the committee's handout. It was discussed that, to accommodate career centers, State Degree qualification language (1 year of instruction) be added to the third bullet for the gold award and Outstanding Junior qualification language (4 months of instruction) be added to the third bullet for the silver award.

Tammy Hyatt moved to accept the recommendation with additions as stated. Second. Motion carried.

Nate Deschepper moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

iii. CANR/FFA Scholarship

The committee recommended the noted changes on the committee's handout. It was discussed that the GPA required would be cumulative as of January 1. It was also discussed that career center qualification language (1 year for seniors, 4 months for juniors) be added.

Brian Kiesling moved to accept the recommendation with additions as stated. Second. Motion carried.

Dustin Grezeszak moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

c. Career Development Event Committee

i. Veterinary Technology CDE

The committee recommended running the Vet Tech CDE as a pilot program for 2008, allowing the first 10 chapters to sign up to participate. Tracey Groom will serve as the Agriscience Teacher; Dr. Dan Grooms will serve as the MSU Faculty Member. It is recommended that the state office determine the cost of the contest, which will then be reported to the College of Veterinary Medicine for sponsorship.

Beth Stuever moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Second. Motion carried.

Dustin Grezeszak moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

ii. Turf CDE

The committee recommended accepting the Turf CDE guidelines and recommending that this contest be run in 2008 as a pilot program under the condition that the ANR teachers and MSU/Industry representation run and chair the contest and design the guidelines. The full contest would be planned for 2009.

Charles Scovill moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Second. Motion carried.

Bailey Albright moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

iii. Parliamentary Procedure Contest Questions

The committee recommended that the state office generate questions using the 'Parliamentary Procedure Oral Questions' booklet similar to the questions currently provided for the Greenhand and Junior High Conduct of Meetings contests.

Charles Scovill moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Second. Motion carried.

Kate Krepps moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

iv. Poultry Improvement Contest

The committee recommended that all proposals dealing with this contest be sent to the review committee to take into account. No action was required on this recommendation.

d. State Officer Committee

- i. **State and Regional Nominating Committee Student Selection Process**
The committee recommended that a short, one-page application be developed to select students for the state and regional nominating committees. The application would consist of a short statement of ‘Why I would like to serve on the nominating committee’, a list of five FFA activities (1 above the chapter level for regional nominating committee, 3 above the chapter level for state nominating committee), and the requirement that regional students maintain the Greenhand degree and state students maintain the Chapter degree.

Charles Scovill moved to accept the recommendation as presented.
Second. Motion carried.

Brittany Armbruster moved to sustain the Adult Board’s motion. Second.
Motion carried.

- ii. **State Nominating Committee Membership Regional Rotating**
The committee recommended that two student members on the State Officer Nominating Committee be selected based on a rotating regional basis. If no qualified candidates from a particular region can be found, a member will be appointed by the State Regional Vice President from that region. They shall be selected in the regional pairs of 1&2, 4&6, and 3&5.

Megan Merrill moved to accept the recommendation as presented.
Second. Motion carried.

Nate Deschepper moved to sustain the Adult Board’s motion. Second.
Motion Carried

- iii. **State Officer Election Tie-Breaker**
The committee recommended that, in the event of a tie during state officer elections, each chapter get one vote per chapter.

Megan Merrill moved to accept the recommendation as presented.
Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board’s motion. Second.
Motion carried.

e. Governance Committee

- i. **Policy Handbook**
The committee recommended that the proposed changes be made to the handbook, as well as some additional changes that were voiced.

Brian Kiesling moved to accept the recommendation with additions as stated. Second. Motion carried.

Bailey Albright moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

f. Diversity Task Force

There was no Diversity Task Force report.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

X. New Business

a. Parliamentary Procedure

This proposal was accepted during the Career Development Committee Report.

b. State Officer Selection

Amanda Sollman moved to refer the State Officer Selection proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Steve Beattie moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion Carried.

c. CDE Contest

Bailey Albright moved to refer the CDE Contest proposal to the CDE Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Steve Beattie moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

d. CDE Contest Clarifications

Bailey Albright moved to refer the CDE Contest Clarifications proposal to the CDE Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Steve Beattie moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

e. Floriculture Contest

Bailey Albright moved to refer the Floriculture Contest proposal to the CDE Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Steve Beattie moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

f. National Chapter Award Presentation

Bailey Albright moved to refer the National Chapter Award Presentation proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tammy Hyatt moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

g. Proficiency Award

The Proficiency Award proposal was accepted during the Awards and Activities Committee Report.

h. Resignation

Steve Beattie moved to accept the resignation of Region V State Vice President, Demitria Gavit. Second. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

-Amanda Sollman
2007-08 State Secretary