

**Michigan FFA Board of Directors**  
**May 22, 2007**

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM in Room 338 of the Natural Resources Building of Michigan State University by State FFA President Alyn Kiel.

There were 28 members present, including Gabriel Holdwick, Alyn Kiel, Katie Eldred, Henry Reinart, Nicole Schaendorf, Emily Ries, Ashley Orłowski, Kirk Yackle, Anna Timmerman, Dave Wyrick, Dr. Randy Showerman, Dr. Eddie Moore, Floyd Beneker, Mark Forbush, Jason Smith, Megan Hirschman, Megan Merrill, Beth Steuver, Steve Beattie, Tammy Hyatt, Hannah Carruthers, Brooke Rockentine, Jason Griffith, Nadja Payok, and Charles Scovill.

There were five members absent, including Danielle Martinez, Tom Condon, Jerry Block, Bart Marshall, and Charles Snyder.

There were six guests present, including Lori Chamberlain, Wade Shields, Susanne Young, Kevin Nugent, Nate Deschepper, Amanda Sollman, and Michelle Sidel.

**II. Opening Ceremonies**

Opening Ceremonies were conducted by the 2006-07 State FFA Officers.

**III. Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the last meeting were submitted by the State FFA Secretary Gabriel Holdwick for review.

Kirk Yackle moved to accept the Secretary's minutes. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Jason Griffith to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by State FFA Treasurer Anna Timmerman. There is currently \$6,996 in the spendable account. The money from the 31 account will be transferred after the budget has been finalized, which will occur next month.

Gabriel Holdwick moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Tammy Hyatt to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**V. Michigan FFA Association**

**1. State Officer Report**

The State Officer report was delivered by State FFA President Alyn Kiel. She presented the issues prepared by the 2006-2007 State Officers at their last Executive Board Meeting at DTE Energy, which were included in a handout.

It was moved by Henry Reinart to refer the proposed Constitutional Amendment aligning the number of delegates we send to National Convention with the number we are allowed to send to the Governance Committee. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Steve Beattie to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

It was moved by Gabriel Holdwick to refer the proposal to create a program similar to the National H.O. Sergeant Award in Michigan to recognize chapters who are promoting diversity to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Tammy Hyatt to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Henry Reinart to refer the proposal to select the students on State and Regional State Officer Nominating Committees through an application process to the State Officer Committee. Second. Motion Carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Beth Steuver to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nicole Schaendorf to refer the proposal to create promotional materials for the Michigan FFA to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Megan Merrill to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Emily Ries to refer the proposal to select the members on the State Nominating Committee on a rotating Regional basis to the State Officer Committee. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Megan Merrill to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Katie Eldred to refer the proposal to create a tie-breaking mechanism in case of a tie in the state office election process, using the Nominating Committee as the primary resource to the State Officer Committee. Second Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Tammy Hyatt to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

## **2. State Advisor Report.**

Dr. Randy Showerman, State FFA Advisor reported that there was quite a lot of activity happening currently in the FFA and Agricultural Education. In 2008 or 2009 there will likely be an end of the year assessment of Career and Technical Education. Dr. Showerman is currently working to make our current Spring Skills Contests fit into this assessment. All programs will also have to develop a sequence of courses, especially in the high school programs. There are also a number of open invoices, several of which are left over from Summer PDI 2006. Please pay these as soon as possible.

## **3. State Executive Secretary's Report**

The State Executive Secretary's report was delivered by Dave Wyrick. The Ag Skills contests were held on April 20 with about 1400 students participating, and went very well. The 2007-08 State FFA Officer Team attended their BLAST-OFF Training on May 4-7. On May 9-10 the 2006-07 State FFA Officer Team held their last executive meeting at DTE Energy in Detroit. This last meeting has been occurring at DTE since 1953, which Charles Scovill thinks is a REALLY long time. Paul Ganz from DTE was the facilitator, and took the State Officers to the Tigers game after the meetings. Conveniently Tom Smith was hosting a group of students from Cassopolis, Golightly, and Roosevelt at the same game. NLCSO for the 2007-08 Officer Team is fast approaching, and will be held in Kentucky with Tennessee and Arkansas also attending. Ryan Peterson coordinated the National Officer Candidate Selection Process on April 28. The three high-quality candidates vying for the position were Emily Ries, Jason Smith, and Gabriel Holdwick. Gabriel was selected to represent Michigan at National Convention, but everyone would have assuredly done a great job representing our state.

## **VI. Michigan FFA Alumni**

Floyd Beneker delivered the Alumni report. He introduced his guest Lori Chamberlain, Administrative Assistant to the Michigan FFA Alumni. The Alumni has selected the MSU scholarships for the upcoming year, however there were no applications for the scholarships to the College of Veterinary

Medicine. The School Leaders Trip is being planned for National Convention on October 26-27. The local Farm Bureau offices and alumni affiliates would probably be willing to help defray the costs. The next regular meeting is on July 22 at the Farm Bureau office in Lansing. There were three new affiliates added this year, which were Grant, Lenawee Vo-Tech, and Fremont.

## **VII. Michigan FFA Foundation**

The Foundation report was given by Annual Fund Director Megan Hirschman. The Ag Heritage License Plate program has been significantly boosted by the phase out of the old blue license plates. The Foundation usually budgets \$45,000 from this program, and \$50,000 has been raised already this year. At Ag Expo this year, Greenstone Farm Credit Services is going to be providing the Foundation with a dunk tank where attendees can dunk their loan officer. They will donate \$5 per dunk. The golf outing will take place on August 2, and \$10,000 has already been raised. The goal this year is \$23,000, and to have 120 golfers. FFA Race Day is on August 18 at MIS. The status of the Glassbrook grants will be determined at the next regular Foundation meeting on July 19.

## **VIII. Standing Committees**

### **1. Finance Committee**

Mark Forbush delivered the Finance Committee Report.

It was moved by Mark Forbush to Limit Discussion to 10 minutes per proposal. Second. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Hannah Carruthers to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark distributed a handout detailing the cuts that will be made if the Association does not receive the grant money from the MDA. These proposed cuts will only be made if necessary. The committee worked very hard to come up with this proposal, and it was scrutinized very closely. It was the committee's hope that none of these cuts have to be made. Megan Hirschman warned that some of the programs that could be cut are directly sponsored, and the Foundation has to honor the requests of these organizations. Most sponsors would not have a problem re-directing their money, but need to be notified.

Mark Forbush moved to accept the Finance Committee's report. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Hannah Carruthers to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

## **2. Awards and Activities Committee**

The Awards and Activities Committee report was given by Beth Steuver and Megan Merrill.

The first proposal presented by the committee was the Religious Overtones at State Convention. It was the recommendation of the committee to leave the presence or absence of Religious overtones to the State Officer Team currently in office.

Megan Merrill moved to accept the committee's proposal as read. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Kirk Yackle to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

The committee also presented a proposal on the Jr. High Charter. They provided a handout with their specific recommendations. In summary, Jr. High Chapters would be allowed to send 2 delegates with full voting privileges to State Convention. Jr. High Students would not be allowed to wear FFA jackets. Jr. High members could continue to be added to a high school roster. The issue regarding Jr. High Official dress is a Constitutional change, and must be presented to the delegate body if passed.

Beth Steuver moved to accept the proposal. Second.

Charles Scovill moved to amend the motion by removing the clause allowing for chartered Junior High chapters sending delegates with full voting privileges to State Convention. Second. Amendment was lost.

The Motion Carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Katie Eldred to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

The Committee also distributed a handout complete with the guidelines for the Regional Displays at State Convention.

Nicole Schaendorf moved to accept the committee's proposal. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Beth Steuver to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

Lori Chamberlain distributed a handout regarding the MFB Career Conference. She said the attendance to the conference has been declining,

and costs continue to go up. She took suggestions from the audience about what could be done to make the conference better. Several comments included moving it to a different time of year, changing location, or merging the conference with Fall PDI and Fall Conferences. Possibly moving the conference to a weekend could also help.

### **3. Career Development Event Committee**

The Career Development Event Committee report was delivered by Charles Scovill. He presented the proposal regarding Cell Phone use during contests. The proposal was outlined in the Agenda Booklet.

It was moved by Charles Scovill to accept the committee's proposal. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Kirk Yackle to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

### **4. State Officer Committee**

The State Officer Committee report was delivered by Jason Griffith. The new chair of the committee is Kevin Nugent, who was in attendance at the meeting. He will also be talking to the advisors at SLCCO/SLCRO and would appreciate the input of the retiring State Officers.

### **5. Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee report was delivered by Steve Beattie. He presented the committee's recommendation on the standardized version of official dress. The major changes include officially allowing slacks for ladies and not allowing Jr. High students to wear jackets.

Steve Beattie moved to accept the committee's proposal as outlined in the Agenda booklet. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Ashley Orłowski to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

Steve Beattie also presented the committee's recommendation for the creation of a seventh Region, which was outlined in the Agenda booklet. Upon passage, this issue would go to the delegate body at State Convention.

Steve Beattie moved to accept the committee's recommendation. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Henry Reinart to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion fails.

Henry called for a Division of the Assembly.

Henry also rose to a Point of Order, as President Alyn Kiel neglected to ask for discussion on the motion. The point was well taken.

The Committee shared that it was their desire to send the issue to the delegates, as it would be affecting them the most.

A countable vote was taken.

Ayes- 9

Noes-1

Motion carried.

Alyn Kiel presented the committees recommendation to create a Diversity Task Force to look at the issue of Diversity in the Michigan FFA. This recommendation was outlined in the Agenda Booklet.

Gabriel Holdwick moved to accept the committee's proposal. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Tammy Hyatt to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

The Task Force will include George Rowan (MSU, Greg Witherspoon (Cassopolis Public Schools Superintendent), Jeno Rivera (MSU), Larry Gossen (National FFA), Nadja Payok, Henry Reinart, Katie Eldred, Amanda Sollman, Tammy Hyatt, Ellen Moro, Emily Ries. This committee will begin meeting in August.

## **IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to process.

## **X New Business**

### **1. Proficiency Awards**

Jason Griffith presented the proposal. He feels that there should be a Bronze Award given along with Gold and Silver. Many students spend a lot of time on these applications, and can be disheartening to get no award.

Jason Griffith moved to refer the proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Ashley Orłowski to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

### **2. Vet Science CDE**

Tammy Hyatt presented this proposal, seeking support from the Board in her development of a Veterinary Technology CDE.

Tammy Hyatt moved to accept the proposal. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Henry Reinart to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

### **3. State Officer Disciplinary Action.**

Charles Scovill moved to accept the Governance committee's recommendation to dismiss Wade Shields from his duties as State Sentinel. Second.

The State Officers prepared a statement of their position on this issue, which was read by Gabriel Holdwick.

Wade Shields prepared a statement, which he read.

A question was brought up regarding the replacement of Wade, in the event that he was removed. At that time, Katie Eldred read another statement prepared by the State Officer Team regarding the procedure that will be employed to seek a replacement if that situation arose.

Motion Carried.

Gabriel Holdwick indicated that this was the last meeting that will be held with the 2006-07 State FFA Officers. He also indicated that it has been a pleasure serving with Adult Board members over the past year. Henry Reinart agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

-Gabriel B. Holdwick  
2006-2007 State FFA Secretary