

**Pennsylvania FFA Board of Directors
Minutes – December 12, 2014 Ferguson
Building – PSU**

President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were: Katie McLaughlin, Tony Rice, Victoria Herr, Lisa Boltz, Matt Brake, Mara Tate, Grant Carlton, Ellen Aurand, Mike Clark, Holly Oberholtzer, Doug McCracken, Sherisa Nailor (Alumni), Sarah Sparks (Foundation), Daniel Foster (PSU), David Bittner (PAAE), Annette Gray, Kelly Bier, Joe Goodge, and Mike Brammer. Opening ceremonies were performed by the state officers. McLaughlin welcomed everyone.

Minutes from the last meeting were presented by Mike Brammer. *Nailor/Clark moved to approve. Motion passed. Tate/Rice moved to concur. Motion passed*

Financial reports were presented by Mike Brammer. All reports will be filed for audit.

Victoria Herr presented the State Officers activity report since the last Board meeting. *Foster/Nailor moved to enter into the minutes a resolution commending the State Officers on the work to date and the future impact they will have with our students. Motion passed.*

FFA Foundation report was presented by Sarah Sparks. Written report is attached. Discussion on a joint web site proposal followed. More details at a future meeting.

FFA Alumni report was presented by Sherisa Nailor, President.

Trailer paid for – Titled to the FFA Association

WLC – 2 full scholarships

Blue & Gold Ball was a success

New affiliate program from National FFA Alumni

Future programs – State models of innovation and a newsletter

Jacket program – 550 this year – Over 2500 in nine years – A round of applause was given for Krista Pontius for the hard work in finalizing the applications and jackets.

PDA – Brammer gave an update on the election and the transition team. George Greig to be commended for his support of the FFA program.

PSU report was provided by Daniel Foster. Update on AEE- Need notification of teacher openings early. Already placing students in out of state programs.

PDE Report – Not in attendance.

PAAE report was provided by David Bittner, President Elect.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Ron Frederick – Not in attendance. Oberholtzer provided a written report.

Gray – Northern Region update provided.

Bier – South Central Region update provided.

Goodge – Western Region update provided.

Activities Week - Written report from Cliff Day – Need an Agronomy Chair for 2015. Item referred to the CDE special committee.

CDE Committee - Foster provided a written report. **Actions:**

Recommendation #1 – Bittner/Nailor moved to create a standing CDE committee with the recommendation going to the delegates at the 2015 convention. Motion passed. Brake/Boltz moved to concur. Motion passed.

Recommendation #4 – Bittner/Nailor moved to accept with implementation at the 2016 convention. Motion passed. Herr/Brake moved to concur. Motion passed.

Recommendation 3 & 5 – Nailor/Bittner moved to accept as written. Motion passed. Herr/Boltz moved to concur. Motion passed.

Recommendation # 2 – Nailor/Oberholtzer moved to refer this item to Dianna Jarema and Krista Pontius for possible implementation in 2016 with a report back in March. Motion passed. Carlton/Brake moved to concur. Motion passed.

Budget proposal for 2015-16 was presented by Brammer. Herr/Rice moved to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed. Clark/Bittner moved to concur. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy change proposals from the last Board meeting were presented.

Clark/Bittner moved for a 10 minute recess at 8:13pm. Motion passed.

Meeting reconvened at 8:23pm

Second Vote on proposal #1 - When a Chapter wins an event/trip, the chapter, not the individual student wins the representation opportunity; therefore the chapter can make the decision on selecting the best individuals to represent that team, unless they choose to forfeit the opportunity.

Roll call vote asked for.

Oberholtzer – No, Bittner – No, Foster – Yes, McCracken – No, Clark – No, Rice – Yes, Nailor – No, Sparks – No, McLaughlin – Yes, Aurand – No

7-No and 3-Yes – Motion Failed.

Second Vote on proposal #2 - Once a student places first and/or competes at the National FFA Convention in a Career Development Event, they have exhausted their eligibility and are no longer eligible to compete in that event at the State Level. They are encouraged to find another area to grow and develop in.

Voice vote taken – Motion failed.

Selecting additional National Delegates Policy (attached) – Herr/Rice moved to accept. Motion passed. Rice/Clark moved to concur. Motion passed. **SECOND VOTE NEEDED IN MARCH.**

Keystone Degree Process – Foster/Bittner moved to create a special committee to review the Keystone Degree approval process and the application for Pennsylvania consisting of one Board member, one teacher from each region(not on the Board) selected by the chair. Nailor/Bittner moved to amend the motion by adding the SAE specialist (Faye) as an ex-officio. Amendment passed. Motion as amended passed. Herr/Tate moved to concur. Motion passed. **Committee members are Bittner, Faye(ex-officio) and four teachers to be determined by Aurand.**

The State Officers gave an update on Mid-Winter (McLaughlin), ACES (Carlton), and SLLC (Rice).

NEW BUSINESS

Keystone Degree Approvals – Tate/Brake moved to approve 300 recipients as listed. Motion passed. Rice/Nailor moved to concur. Motion passed.

Honorary and Special Parent Awards – Herr/Boltz moved to approve the list. Motion passed.
Clark/Nailor moved to concur. Motion passed.

Keystone Degree Process – Oberholtzer/Sparks moved to allow the remaining “denied” Keystone Degree applicants to make corrections and provide to the Regional Coordinators by Feb 1 and present certificates only to those then approved. Oberholtzer moved to amend by adding ONLY those who were denied for items 11-12-13 from the check sheet. Motion failed due to a lack of a second. Roll call vote on the motion: Oberholtzer – Yes, Bittner – No, Foster – No, Rice – Yes, Clark – No, Nailor – No, Sparks – Yes, McLaughlin – No, Aurand – No. Motion failed 6 – No, 3 – Yes.

Clark/Nailor moved to accept all Keystone Degree applications that were submitted this year to the state verification process. Roll call vote: Oberholtzer – Yes, Bittner – No, Foster – No, Rice – Yes, Clark – Yes, Nailor – Yes, Sparks – Yes, McLaughlin – Yes, Aurand – No.
Motion passed 6 – Yes and 3 – No. Herr/Brake moved to concur. Motion passed.

Foster/Sparks moved to appoint a special committee of three current State Officers to construct a constitutional amendment for electronic meetings to be presented in March to go to the deletes in June. Motion passed. Brake/Herr moved to concur. Motion passed. Members of the committee: Carlton, Rice and Boltz.

Bittner/Clark moved to accept the CDE eligibility policy as printed w/corrections. Motion passed.
Herr/Rice moved to concur. Motion passed. **SECOND VOTE REQUIRED.**

Bittner/Sparks moved to change policy VI. d.i. to read:

Coaches and participants who cannot attend their respective trips must notify at least one of the following persons, in writing, within 30 days of the close of State Convention in June.

- a) FFA Facilitator
- b) State FFA Advisor
- c) State FFA Executive Manager
- d) State FFA Board of Directors President

Motion passed. Carlton/Herr moved to concur. Motion passed. **SECOND VOTE REQUIRED.**

Bittner/Oberholtzer moved to appoint a special state record book contest committee of three (SAE Specialist and two chosen by the chair) to study the continuance of said contest and report back by the March 2015 meeting. Foster/Nailor moved to amend by striking out 3 and inserting 5. Amendment passed. Motion as amended passed. Herr/Carlton moved to concur. Motion passed.

Committee members are: Bittner, Faye, Gray, Frederick, Herr.

Dr. Foster presented a video on “All About Ag Ed”.

Closing Ceremonies were performed by the officers with adjournment at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Brammer
Pennsylvania FFA
Executive Manager

**Pennsylvania FFA Board of Directors
December 12, 2014
State Officer Report/Update**

Since the Board of Directors meeting on August 8th, the state officers have been very busy traveling the state, meeting with the leaders of the agricultural industry, facilitating workshops and conferences and promoting Ag Ed and FFA. During this time we have;

- Reached 8,613 students
- Met with over 2,010 supporters and partners
- Visited 74 chapters
- Conducted 3 Business and Industry Visits
- Attended 7 county/ area conferences
- Facilitated 1 state conferences
- Attended the National FFA Convention
- Participated in 2 FFA Foundation and 1 FFA Alumni fundraisers/events
- Attended 4 community events
- Attended 1 chapter banquet
- Inclusively traveled approximately 79,836 miles

It has been a very busy few months full of learning and growing. As we prepare for the upcoming New Year we are so excited to see how far our impact will reach!

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Herr

Victoria Herr
2014-2015 Pennsylvania FFA Secretary

**Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators (PAAE)
Report to Pennsylvania FFA Board of Directors
Friday, December 12, 2014**

SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING

Program of Study Task List Revision – September 15, 2014 – Web Survey
Agricultural Mechanization (01.0201)
Applied Horticulture (01.0601)

Executive Board Meeting - Monday, October 3, 2014 – Conference Call
Minutes posted to PAAE website

Fall Regional Meetings - October/November
Four meetings attended by 80+ PAAE members

Fall Regional Workshops – November 3-13, 2014
Information shared related to state regulations (Chapter 339),
curriculum development, and NOCTI resources for instructors

NAAE/ACTE Convention – November 18-22, 2014– Nashville, TN
20 attendees from PA, including:
11 workshop presenters, 6 pre-service teacher candidates, 3 delegates, 2
Region VI Officers, 1 Agriscience Ambassador, 1 Teachers Turn the Key
Award Winner

State-wide Task List Development Workshops – October 14-15, 2014
Agriculture, General (01.0000)
Agriculture, Production (01.0301)

NYC Bus Trip – December 6, 2014

NOCTI Alignment – December 11, 2014
Agricultural Mechanization, General (01.0201)

UNTIL NEXT MEETING

NOCTI Alignment – Winter/Spring 2015
Agriculture, General (01.0000)
Agriculture, Production (01.0301)

Executive Board Meeting – January 23, 2015 – PSU

ACES Professional Development Workshops – February 2015

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Bittner
2014-2015 PAAE President Elect

Recommendations to be made to the Board of Directors

CDE Committee

Recommendation #1 - Establish a Standing Committee for CDES charged with:

1. Developing a policy for addition and removal of CDES
2. Determine a Committee Structure and Administrative Responsibilities
 1. Including Industry Representation
 2. Define Committee leadership structures:
 1. Chair Term of Service.
 2. Establish Vice-Chair/Rotational
 3. Identify Specific Duties of the Chair.
 4. Incentive Structure for Accepting Leadership
 3. Providing Opportunity for New Teacher Involvement
3. Develop a policy for revision of state CDEs on a rotational basis.
4. Develop a template for aligning the following areas in a public document for all CDEs
 - a. Curriculum Standards
 - i. AFNR
 - ii. Academic
 - b. Curriculum Resource Connections
 - c. USDE Career Clusters
 - d. Post-Secondary Majors
 - e. Pennsylvania Industry Connections/Contacts
 - f. Related SAE opportunities

Recommendation #2 -

Charge the Ag Issues CDE Committee with conducting the event at the 2016 Farm Show

Recommendation #3 -

The addition of Livestock Showmanship CDE, Digital Scrapbook Contest and Novice Parli Pro will be delayed until the Standing Committee has formed a policy for additions

Recommendation #4 -

Develop a semifinal (state qualifiers) and finals (final four) approach to the national advancing public speaking events (Creed, Extemp, & Prepared) at the State FFA Convention.

Recommendation #5

Table elimination of any event until the recommended standing committee develops an appropriate policy.

Delegate issue:

Develop a policy for selecting additional delegates for serving at the National FFA Convention

“I move to create the following policy: Establish an application process for selecting those to serve as additional delegates (other than State Officers) at the National FFA Convention. First choice will be given to those who have served as a national delegate with second choice to an American degree recipient that will be receiving their degree at the national convention where they would serve as a delegate. Term limits would be two years. If there is a lack of candidates with the preferences provided we will allow students who have received their keystone degrees to apply. The application will be scored by the executive secretary of the Pennsylvania FFA with the scoring rubric provided.”

Proposal provided by the 2014-15 State Officer team.

Policy Proposal

National/Regional FFA Career Development Event (CDE) Eligibility

1. Any school that wins a state level Career Development Event (CDE) will represent Pennsylvania in their respective National FFA CDE, if the CDE exists, providing they meet the following criteria:
 - a. No more than one-half of the state winning team has been substituted for any reason. In the event that the CDE team consists of three members, then only one substitution is allowed.
 - b. No substitute on the winning team has ever previously competed in the same CDE at the National Convention.
2. Any school that places second in a state level CDE will represent Pennsylvania at the Big E, if the CDE exists, providing they meet the following criteria:
 - a. No more than one-half of the state winning team has been substituted for any reason. In the event that the CDE team consists of three members, then only one substitution is allowed.
 - b. No substitute on the second place team has ever previously competed in the same CDE at the Big E.
3. No substitutions shall be allowed in CDEs with individual contestants. First place will represent Pennsylvania at the National FFA CDE and second place will represent Pennsylvania at the Big E, if such CDEs exist.
4. If a team or individual is no longer eligible to complete in a CDE at the National Convention or Big E, the opportunity passes down the list of winning teams/individuals until the next highest eligible team/individual can be found to replace them.
5. Once a student competes at the National FFA Convention, places first in an individual state CDE, and/or is the member of a first place team in a team state CDE, they have exhausted their eligibility and are no longer eligible to complete in that respective CDE at the State Level.

Eastern PA regional report: Provided by Ron Frederick

December 12th PA FFA Board meeting.

On October 21 the eastern region conducted annual fall regional CDE events at the Lebanon Expo Center. Approximately 490 members participated in the following CDEs: dairy cattle judging, milk quality and dairy foods, pleasure horse judging, nursery & landscape, forestry, land judging, job interview, aquatic resources and ag mechanics.

Selection of regional stars was completed on Monday November 17th. We had no candidates for star agribusiness.

In September Mrs. Frederick and I conducted the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE at the Big E with the help of collegiate FFA and state officers.

Regional concerns:

1. The budget as distributed contains no allocation for the 2015-16 state record book contest. In 2014, the cost of this event was paid by The Center for Professional Development at Penn State. This was an out of the ordinary happening made possible by the availability of money because of an unfilled position. The Center should not be counted on to pay this bill each year. Total cost to operate this event is approximately \$ 3500. The Center has budgeted \$ 1500 for the 2015 event.

2. The verification process for Keystone Degrees this year left a lot to be desired. At Bedford on November 15 all were in agreement until the very end of the process when multiple applications from a single chapter were denied with no appeal. Previously several applications had been denied for the same reason including all 3 from an eastern region school. However when the applications from a school in a different region were denied suddenly it was wrong, we could not do this. When we left Bedford these applications were still denied with no appeal.

Sunday afternoon I e-mailed all advisors in the east who had submitted applications and informed them of the status of their applications. I have always tried to inform advisors the next day so they can have students begin to make corrections where permitted and so they can answer student questions starting first thing Monday morning.

I was surprised later Sunday evening to receive an e-mail stating that there would be an electronic meeting of the Board on Monday afternoon. I was unable to participate in this meeting as my wife had an oncologist appointment at Hershey Medical Center at that time. As a result of this meeting on Tuesday I informed advisors of changes made to the original verification results.

My concerns

A. The results of a decision should NEVER be changed because of the effects on a chapter, teacher or member. If it is fair for one it is fair for all. The chapter involved, teacher / advisor involved or member involved should NEVER influence the decision. This left me wondering if we need to eliminate chapter and advisor names from the applications for the verification process. I really thought we had eliminated this from our organization decades ago. Is it now reappearing to be dealt with again. Favoritism MUST be eliminated from all our decisions and actions! Equality MUST be the rule!

B. While the state constitution does not prohibit electronic meetings, it also does not authorize them. **The constitution should be amended to permit such meetings when deemed necessary by the Board President.**

C. **Any special meetings – electronic or face-to-face – should have a minimum of 24 hours' notice** to give potential participants ample time to change their schedule to be able to participate. This should be part of the constitutional amendment.

3. With regard to the Keystone Degree, we denied with no appeal applications that on page 8 had all items designated as met. It is impossible for the computer to verify some items so we need to modify this page so it does not say **met** for items that must be verified by an advisor. The same problem exists on the American degree application, but in this process if a mistake is noted the application is returned for corrections. We however denied these applications with no appeal. **I would ask the Board even at this late date to use the same criteria as national FFA does and allow these items – numbers 11, 12 and 13 on our check list – to be corrected on current applications so these students might receive their keystone degrees at Farm Show.**

4. I would ask that the alternate Keystone verification process as submitted be approved and IMPLEMENTED immediately so ANY denied application may be corrected – if possible. This would solve a multitude of issues this year. I would suggest that this may be a onetime process if number 5 below is implemented.

5. I would ask that for the 2014-15 Keystone application verification process **a list of reasons why applications would be denied be developed and provided to all advisors.** This would I believe eliminate almost all denied applications.