

**SAGA Executive Meeting  
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Blair Cummins (Chairperson), Grant Wood (Recorder), Trina Mortson, Darcy Jones, Allan McDougald, Dennis Ewanus, Ewald Lammerding, Whitney Cyca, Keith Head, Vern Racz

**REGRETS:** Barb Larson, Jill Turner, Ken Sapsford, John Spencer, Bob McKercher, Lucas Ringdal, Curtis deGooijer, Mayson Maerz, Don Mitchell

1. Call to order by Chairperson Blair Cummins at 7:00 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
  - Agenda was circulated electronically prior to the meeting
  - **MOTION:** Ewald / Vern - that the agenda to be adopted. CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from January 7, 2014 meeting
  - Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting
  - **MOTION:** Keith / Allan - that the minutes to be adopted with revisions. CARRIED.
  - Blair reviewed the minutes

Business arising from January 7, 2014 meeting, plus January 11, 2014 AGM meeting

- Honourary Life pins – pins were personally handed out to 12 honorary life members who were present at the reunion weekend, January 11, 2013
  - ACTION:** Blair to write a short note thanking honorary life members for their contributions to the field of agriculture and their continued support of SAGA, and to send this letter to Trina
  - ACTION:** Grant to get pins to Trina, who will mail pins to remaining honorary life members
- To promote SAGA to AgBio students, it was suggested that the Honourary Life plaques be displayed somewhere in the lounge
- **ACTION:** Trina to work with Whitney to decide where plaques could be displayed ; Grant has plaques in his office
- **ACTION:** Following a suggestion from Irene Ahner, Blair to write a short note to Mike Raine (Western Producer / [michael.raine@producer.com](mailto:michael.raine@producer.com)) and Crystal Zvacek (SIA / [crystal.zvacek@sia.sk.ca](mailto:crystal.zvacek@sia.sk.ca)) and ask them to include photos and text highlighting SAGA honorary life recipients for 2014 in their upcoming newspaper / newsletter
- **ACTION:** Ewald to contact photographer and ask for photos to be sent to Blair
- **ACTION:** Grant to write short note to Dr. Murray Drew and thank him for bringing greetings to SAGA members on behalf of College of Agriculture & Bioresources

#### 4. Reading and adoption of financial reports:

- financial report was electronically distributed by Dennis prior to the meeting ; Dennis presented the financial report
- all expenses for reunion have not been received ; based on projected expenses and income, it appears income exceeded expenses
- **ACTION:** executive members are encouraged to get their expenses claims to Dennis as soon as they can
- **MOTION:** Dennis / Grant - that SAGA reimburse Darcy Jones and Jill Turner and spouse for banquet tickets they purchased but were unable to use due to illness in the family, CARRIED.
- 
- Need to change signing authority at bank
- **ACTION:** John to complete necessary form and send to Dennis ; Dennis will make arrangements with Blair to go to bank to sign the appropriate forms
- **MOTION:** Vern / Ewald - that the financial reports be adopted, CARRIED.

#### 5. Correspondence / Website

- Grant reported that Richard Gray will be stepping down from the executive ; Grant also reported that Chris Unsworth has accepted the position of MAL for 2014 – welcome Chris
- There was a suggestion that the SAGA website needs updating and potentially changed to make it more user friendly
- **ACTION:** executive members to review the website, make a list of suggested changes and send to Mayson ; website will be discussed at the next meeting

#### 6. Committee Reports

##### ASA - report by Whitney Cyca

- Telemiracle Bed Push is scheduled for Feb 27 to March 1 ; students will push the bed from Saskatoon to Regina ; campaign is called ‘Run it or Fund it’ ; pledge sheets are available from Whitney
- **MOTION:** Grant / Darcy - that SAGA make a donation of \$200 to the ASA for the Telemiracle Bed Push, CARRIED.
- The Agro vs Engineer Blood Drive continues until ?? ; SAGA members are classified as agros and are encouraged to give blood ; contact the Red Cross and indicate you are an Agro
- The Executive auction and Bowling auction were recently held and raised \$6,000 for Telemiracle
- The AgBio Challenge was held on January 6 ; six teams of students were given a topic to research and present in 48 hours ; Ewald was a judge this year for the event ; a banquet with a guest speaker was held after the event ; the guest speaker was Sean Aiken (author of One Week Job) (<http://www.oneweekjob.com/>) ; great message and well received by the students ; judges were very impressed with the team presentations this year – very innovative, well presented topics
- ASA graduation banquet and awards was held January 31 ; great time had by all

#### College of Agriculture and Bioresources – report by Trina Mortson

- Trina continues to update the email lists ; last year we had 72 lost sheep, this is now down to 55
- The executive are encourage to nominate colleagues for the USSU Young Alumni Excellence award ([http://alumni.usask.ca/awards/ussu\\_engaged\\_alumni/index.php](http://alumni.usask.ca/awards/ussu_engaged_alumni/index.php)) ; closing date was Feb 7
- Trina has a list of 300 SAGA members with a Saskatoon address ; could use this list to market SAGA and encourage members to join the executive
- **ACTION:** Blair to write short note (see above) and send to Trina who will send it via email to the 300 local SAGA members
- **ACTION:** Blair to send same note as above to Crystal Zvacek for inclusion in next SIA newsletter
- Following up on a suggestion from the AGM, Trina has located a copy of the SAGA newsletters, except for 2012 ; Ewald has the pdf version of these
- **ACTION:** Ewald to email pdf copy of the 2012 newsletters to Trina for printing
- **ACTION:** Grant to gather copies of newsletter and minutes and take to archives
- **ACTION:** Grant to create Doodle Poll and arrange a meeting with Hamish, Blair, Ewald, Vern and Trina

#### Membership Committee – report by Vern Racz

- 59 annual memberships and 9 life memberships were sold at the banquet ; much less confusion this year about who has / does not have SAGA membership ; could still use some improvement
- **ACTION:** Vern to write a letter to all new members ; also will encourage annual members to purchase a life membership
- **Vern – I seem to remember you saying that the new annual members may be able to get a life membership for \$90 if they act now – did we vote on that? Are we going to do that?)**

#### Reunion

- No report

#### Banquet/Mixer – report by Blair Cummins

- Bob McKercher and Dennis both submitted several comments / suggestions for changes for next years reunion event ; these were discussed

#### Suggestions from Dennis:

- 1 We need to get the update on pre-registration lists at least 1 week before the reunion from CCDE.
- 2 The page in newsletter on Reunion Banquet details to change to include:
  - mixer lunch at 10:00 PM or 9:30 PM
  - box to show "are you interested in hockey"
  - box to show "are you interested in curling"
- 3 How do we confirm annual or life member status at pre-registration?

- 4 At reception desk have 2 tables checking off registration with 3 people checking the list and 2 writing receipts ; tables in L shape, 2 long for registration and 1 short (for name tags)
- 5 The treasurer should make up the Saga Banquet Fees Lists for the registration tables ; there will be some latecomers that have to be included.
- 6 Out of the 320 registered guests, only 74 were from Saskatoon ; this is important that the function be held close to these hotels for the convenience of the out of towners.
- 7 Barbra Larson has mentioned that we should stay at TCU place for various reasons ; I would agree with this
- 8 Perhaps at supper the Chairperson should mention that the \$70 registration fee also includes mixer and mixer meal and the fact that this is the only way we can make some money to keep SAGA going.
- 9 The spring newsletter should have the date for the 2015 reunion so that snowbirds can plan their year.
- 10 Aggressive reunion chairs bring in a lot of guests with persuasion and persistence, like Les Henry!!!
- 11 It would be nice if we could get a quieter room for AGM.
- 12 Have a lower number count for late lunch ; we were charged \$10.50 each for 195 out of 327 at supper, whereas more than half the people had left ; perhaps 140 would be lots??

Comments from Bob

1. it also has to also be very clear in the newsletter that the \$70 includes Mixer and lunch - so people know ahead what the ticket price includes. I heard quite a few people "grumbling" about the price and said they didn't know this before they came. Good to reinforce this though at the banquet too.

Can we move back upstairs to the big ballroom with windows? It has such a nicer feel and not so long. Really difficult for people sitting at the far ends to hear. Quite a few people commented to me on this problem. Better microphone or announcers to speak louder?

Agree about having a room in a more desirable location for the AGM. That was a farce.

Re photos. The location this year was very crowded and the metal railing showed in the background of photos if there was a small class. The photos cost enough so people expect quality.

Suggestions to have more people stay around and socialize at the Mixer?

Just FYI parking underground cost me \$25!!!! A tad expensive I feel. Doubt there is any way

round this but wish they had a flat rate for evenings. Not your problem though but just be aware.

Also one of my classmates stayed at the new Holiday Inn and was really surprised by the rates. With the hotel room, taxes and parking he paid \$225. This is a farmer from Elfros so a total shock to him how Saskatoon hotel prices have sky rocketed. Others from small towns will also be surprised. I was phoning around for hotel prices for my 60th class reunion and September and the Parktown was one of the most reasonable. Still some people are happy to pay more for convenience, especially if it is a really cold or snowy night and just walk across the street.

The program needs to have a serious brainstorming session for ideas to liven it up. It's been the same format for years. More prominent guest speakers? Minister of Agriculture? Entertainment (low cost I know). Could be home spun as there is a lot of talent among the Agros.

Curling – report by Ewald Lammerding & Whitney Cyca

- Still waiting for invoice

Hockey -

- No report

Newsletter – report by Ewald Lammerding

- Ewald attended a few events recently and info gathered at those events will be included in the next newsletter
- **ACTION:** all executive to send Ewald a short notice about the past reunion weekend events they coordinated
- Materials for next newsletter due April 15

Alumni -

- No report
- Short discussion on how to / need to fill this position
- **ACTION:** Grant to follow up with U of S Alumni office

Hall of Fame –

- No report

Crop Production Week – report by Keith Head

- Crop Production Week 2014 went well. The new event, CropSphere held at TCU Place was successful and will likely be continued in 2015
- Crop Week now has three main activities – Crop Production Week meetings at the Saskatoon Inn, CropSphere meetings at the TCU Place, and the Crop Production Show at Prairieland Park
- Some changes are being suggested to better coordinate CropSphere and Crop Week meetings

- In 2014, there were meetings at the Saskatoon Inn on Monday, but then nothing else until Wednesday afternoon, to allow people to attend CropSphere which started on Tuesday. The lack of continuity of events at the Saskatoon Inn made bookings and coordination more difficult
- Has been suggested that CropSphere move to a Monday-Tuesday schedule if TCU Place is available on Monday. This will allow activities at the Saskatoon Inn to run from Tuesday to Saturday without a break
- This might be positive for SAGA activities as grads might be more inclined to come to the Saturday activities and stay over for CropSphere on Monday rather than viewing the SAGA Reunion as a separate trip to town
- The Crop Production Week AGM is in April, at which time any changes will be confirmed

MAL – report by Allan McDougald

- Al questioned the value of the face-to-face AGM ; he suggested we look at alternative methods to have an AGM ; possibly an audio-conference / computer conference at an earlier date ; to be discussed at next meeting

Past President – report by Grant Wood

- John and Grant are still searching for a VP ; any suggestions are appreciated

President Report

- No report

7. New / Other business

- Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources re-appointed for another five year term
- A committee was struck in 2013 charged with reviewing how SAGA can increase membership of more recent grads
- **ACTION:** Grant to send Doodle poll to members of committee to inquire about a potential meeting for first week in March
- **ACTION:** Grant, Blair and Al to meet before the next executive meeting to gather names of potential reunion chairs from the class photos posted in the hallways of the Agriculture building
- **MOTION:** Grant / Ewald - that SAGA purchases an appropriate gift for Trina to recognize her contributions to the executive for the past few years, **CARRIED**. The amount to be determined by the person(s) purchasing the gift ; to be presented to Trina at the next executive meeting

8. Next meetings: Wednesday, March 5 ; 2D21 Agric Building 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment – Vern