

**Minutes SAGA Executive Meeting
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building
Wednesday, February 06, 2019**

Prepared by: Raelene Petracek

PRESENT: Eric Johnson (chair), Mayson Maerz, Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus, Ewald Lammerding, Madison Englot, Bryan Harvey, Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein, Blair Cummins, Raelene Petracek
by phone: Irene Ahner
Regrets: Owen Olfert, Hamish Tulloch, Vern Racz

1. Call to order by Chairperson Eric Johnson at 7:05 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - **MOTION:** B. Harvey. CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from January 2019 meeting
 - Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting
 - **MOTION** to adopt: M. Maerz CARRIED.
4. Business arising from the Minutes
 - Eric was to ask Chairs to ask for permission to share email addresses from the people they have them for that are not on our lists.
 - Has received list from one of the chairs
5. Financial Report – D. Ewanus
 - Financial Report was electronically distributed by D. Ewanus prior to the meeting
 - **MOTION:** SAGA to donate \$200 to ASA for Telemiracle. D. Ewanus - CARRIED
 - **MOTION:** Approve Financial report. E. Lammerding – CARRIED
6. Correspondence
 - None

7. Committee Reports

Scholarship – K. Head

- \$4670 at end of Jan so could award three \$1000 scholarships
- Committee will meet with Hamish to finalize the Terms of Reference

ASA - M. Englot

- Grad was a big success
- Upcoming:
 - Ski Trip
 - Winter Mixer
 - Telemiracle fundraisers – Drag profits, car smash, pie in face

- Elections – will be end of Feb/beginning of March
- Facebook page is the best place to keep on top of their events

Reunion – E. Johnson

- Everything seemed to go well.
- Tour of Livestock and Forage Center of Excellence went well, 22 people attended so the bus was more than adequate

ACTION ITEM: All to think about any tours that may be of interest in future years.

Banquet/Mixer Report - E.Lammerding

- Went well overall
- Need some adjustments to the floor plan (entry and flow, coat rack placement, placement of photographer)
- WDM material and the “old tools” were great but better signage from WDM would be good.
- Samples seemed to go OK
- Samples/WDM/ASA all in one area worked well
- Better signage and mentions of Sodbusters needed.
- Had quite a few 5 + 20yr grads come just for mixer, may want to look at the price structure
- Blue Sapphires (old grads) – may want to look at honouring them with white glove service

Friday Event –

- No report

Hockey –

- No report

Newsletter – E.Lammerding

- Deadline – May 15

Development Office and Alumni Relations Report –

- No Report

Crop Production Week – K. Head/J. Relf-Ekstein

Report provided:

Restructuring of Crop Production Week Saskatchewan Inc (CPW Inc):

The issue facing Crop Week is the proposed restructuring. The documents attached to this report concern the proposal. The slide presentation (CPW & CropSphere) outlines the proposed changes and the need for a change.

The main reason that changes are necessary is that CPW Inc can no longer generate enough sponsor income to cover its management costs.

- Crop Week members no longer meet at one venue but are at 3 or 4 different locations in Saskatoon. This makes it difficult for sponsors to see value in their investments

- CropSphere is now the “event” and easily attracts funding
- Crop Week members outside of the CropSphere group are not willing to volunteer the time to run CPW Inc without a paid manager
- CropShere requires a corporate body to manage its GST responsibilities

Two options have been suggested:

1. Change the membership status of the ten groups outside of CropSphere to that of Associate Members (see attached slide presentation). The Associate Members would not have seats on the Board of Directors, but would have one seat representing the 10 Associate Members. The 6 groups that make up CropSphere would have seats on the Board of Directors, and would have control of the Board. CropShere would then provide all the management services to the Associate Members – coordinate Crop Week to avoid overlap of meetings, maintain the website, organise the Networking Reception, and ensure the meeting agendas are included in the Show Guide.
2. Wind up Crop Week Inc, with the residual funds (approximately \$50,000) given to one or more charities. Crop Week members outside of CropSphere would operate independently with respect to meeting times and venues, getting their agendas into the Show Guide, and making sure there is as little conflict of agendas as possible.

SAGA’s Role:

- It is likely a resolution will come before the April AGM to implement the proposal, or some modification of the proposal.
- The current CPW Inc executive is receiving comments and suggestions regarding the proposal and will communicate them to the membership, and perhaps have one or more alternate proposals to put before the AGM.
- SAGA can put forward any ideas or suggestions

The Crop Production Week representative will forward any and all suggestions to the CPW Inc executive.

MOTION: That SAGA support the proposed changes to Crop Week Inc – B. Harvey - CARRIED

Membership/Website – V. Racz

- Report provided:
In general the 2019 reunion was a bonanza in not only successful reunion activities but in individuals committing to SAGA. We gained some 40 life memberships and 67 annual memberships. These numbers places total membership well over 2000 members. To enhance this commitment it was suggested that we try to convert some of these annual members for 2019 to life memberships. Plans are to email directly all the 2019 annual an offer of conversion to life memberships. The net cost to the individual is \$100 and is the same as if he would have purchased a life membership in the first place. To increase commitment there is also the option to make a soft donation to the scholarship fund. The email letter is attached and is still open to change if needed.

Arising out of this past reunion will be changes to our website and the committee of Dennis, Keith and myself will continue to fine tune the website to serve our membership.

The problem of attracting memberships from other graduates other than those from traditional agriculture studies will become more pronounced as the numbers of graduates in these disciplines grows. This aspect should be discussed at some future meeting with an intent to address this situation with activities. The common link must be there, perhaps we just need to find it.

MOTION: To support the letter in principle with minor revisions. B. Harvey - CARRIED

Hall of Fame – B. Harvey

- Presentations to be made in April

MAL –B. Cummins/ I. Ahner

- Looking for a sponsor for Farm Progress Show soon as it will be included in the advertising if we know by April
- A suggestion for a new Forever Young book was made.

Vice President – E. Johnson for O. Olfert

- A letter has been sent to the previous reunion chairs and there have been a few responses
- Comment made: We need to make sure we are dealing with the new degrees with the reunion.

Past President – M. Maerz

Report provided:

Honorary Life Members for 2020 – two, possibly three candidates to review. Stay tuned.

Agro Graduation Saturday, January 19 – Eric was tied up so I attended on behalf of SAGA. Shared the story and presented the Tommy Fraser Memorial Award to Brooklyn Haubrick (Captain, U of S Huskies Women’s Hockey Team) and extended greetings and membership offer to this new crop of graduates. It should be noted SAGA was referenced a number of times by our PRO Madison, the ASA president Tyler Crowe, and by the Emcee Greg Cooper as being a supportive member-driven organization fostering strong bonds with the undergraduates – very rewarding to hear! We enjoyed a lot of recognition.

Social Media – I continue to manage the Twitter and FaceBook accounts with the aid of Louis B. I have not had enough time to upload Reunion pictures...yet...

- Comment at meeting: At Grad SAGA was recognized several times. We need to make sure we stay engaged with them

President Report –E. Johnson

Report provided:

My goals for the year:

1. Carry on the momentum that previous Presidents have started in terms of engaging the Agriculture Students Association and new members;
2. Recruit Ag grads for future vacant Executive positions by inviting them as guests to our meeting.
3. Assist Vice-President in recruiting reunion chairs.
4. Formally inform the faculty of College of Agriculture and Bioresources faculty that they are members of SAGA and what the organization is all about. Could have:
 - a. Coffee break receptions with individual departments
 - b. One-on-one meetings
 - c. SAGA pin with Faculty member engraved?

MOTION: Accept Reports: B. Harvey. CARRIED.

8. New / Other business

- Communications person
 - Discussion around a person being in charge of this as it quite time-consuming, should be separate from the website person
- Executive additions/changes:
 - Earl Bohachewki – to be added as MAL
 - Joanne Relf-Ekstein – to be added as a new Member
 - Page Newton – resigned as MAL

MOTION: Accept resignation of P. Newton, add E. Bohachewki as MAL, add J. Relf-Ekstein as member – B. Harvey - CARRIED

9. Date of Next Meetings

- TUESDAY March 05th at 7:00
- WEDNESDAY April 03rd at 7:00

10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 pm by E. Johnson