

**International Association for Accounting Education and Research  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 4, 2009**

**American Accounting Association Annual Meeting  
Sheraton New York (Liberty 1 & 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Donna Street. In attendance were John Ahern, John Christensen, Elizabeth (Betsy) Gordon, Bryan Howieson, Recep Pekdemir, Gary Previts, Lee Radebaugh, Salvador Ruiz de Chavez, Holly Ashbaugh Skaife, Donna Street, Gary Sundem, Marianne van Staden and Richard M.S. Wilson. David Cairns joined the meeting to discuss possible IAAER/World Bank collaborations. Mary Barth joined the meeting to discuss the IASB.

**Proposed Constitutional Change**

The Executive Committee (EC) discussed a proposed constitutional change and the election of Barth as a VP at Large. The EC had, by a strong majority, approved both via email voting, thereby agreeing to call a vote on both issues as the forthcoming General Meeting.

Presently:

Article IV, Para. 1, Section ix: "...and up to eight Vice-Presidents at-large, representing Academic Accounting Associations."

Proposed Change: "...and up to eight Vice-Presidents at-large representing Academic Accounting Associations and up to two Vice-Presidents at-large assigned special responsibilities."

Following the conclusion of her term on the IASB, Mary Barth was appointed a 'consultant' to the IASB and among other things was assigned to be the Board's academic liaison. As part of this role, Barth will be the IASB/IASCF liaison to the IAAER and attend IAAER EC meetings. Barth is willing to formalize this relationship and serve as an IAAER VP at-Large. The IASCF has agreed to support Mary in this role. The IAAER Advisory Board fully supports the appointment (they had discussed via email and at their meeting the day before). The EC agreed that adding some flexibility by adding two VP at Large positions that could be held by organizations with which IAAER affiliates was a good move. Presently VPs at Large must represent Academic Associations. Street thanked the EC for their support of the proposed constitutional change and ballot to elect Barth as VP at Large. The membership vote would be taken at the General Meeting later in the day. The proposed constitutional change and General Meeting agenda (which included the ballot) had previously been posted to the IAAER website for member review as required by the constitution.

## **Approval of EAA EC Minutes**

Ahern requested members of the EC to read the minutes of the EC meeting of May 15, 2009 in Tampere, Finland. Two edits were suggested and the minutes were approved subject to the changes being made.

## **Administrative Report**

Ahern reported that Brian Maj has made a number of improvements to the IAAER website. The website now reports the calendar of events of affiliate institutions, IAAER Committee listings, homepage news, *AE* table of contents, and elaboration of the current and historical research grant proposals.

A new function has been created by having members select their country of origin from a drop down menu rather than typing it in manually. This allows IAAER to track the membership by country and to ensure the accurate reporting of country of origin. This has corrected an ongoing issue of members entering variations of country name spelling or official names.

Invoicing processes have been improved. Significant transaction amounts, are regularly invoiced and received for project collaborations with the ACCA, KPMG, World Bank, and others. Maj is adding a feature to generate one-time invoices on the web that notify parties of amounts due for specific projects. This improves the timeliness of tracking IAAER related business invoices and activities.

Members of all IAAER committees are now listed at [www.iaaer.org/about/committees.htm](http://www.iaaer.org/about/committees.htm).

Ahern reported that Maj has been working with Street on content and is in the process of designing a professional brochure describing the benefits of IAAER membership which will be distributed soon to all EC members and partner organizations for distribution at various, events, meetings, conferences and other venues.

Maj has established a regular schedule of communicating announcements to all active IAAER members on the first of each month. This is conducted using an e-mail merge with all active members. Maj hopes to have an automated contact system soon which would allow IAAER to enter HTML announcements into the administrative web portal, then send these to all active members.

Ahern reported membership totals as of June 30, 2009. IAAER has approximately 2000 individual members, 50 institutional members, and 50 university members. IAAER membership represents 62 unique countries.

Ahern distributed a listing of both universities and Institutions that had not yet paid their 2009 membership dues. He asked members of the EC to contact representatives of institutions and universities that had not renewed yet in 2009 to encourage them to renew.

Ahern next distributed IAAER financial information for the six month period ending June 30, 2009. These reports indicated that cash disbursements (\$114,753.37) exceeded receipts (\$111,124.87) by a small amount. In part this was due to the final payouts for Round 2 of the KPMG grant program in March. The cash balance in all accounts totaled \$206,230.81, of which \$47,140.48 was restricted under the terms of various grants (ACCA & KPMG), leaving an unrestricted fund balance of \$159,090.33.

Ahern recommended, and the EC approved, a bonus for Maj. Maj had worked several extra hours to help prepare for the EC meeting and complete other projects. A question was asked about the number of hours Maj would likely work going forward; discussion followed.

### **IASB Standards Advisory Council Report**

Hollis Ashbaugh Skaife gave an overview of the composition and activities of the newly reconstituted Standards Advisory Council (SAC) of the IASB. The objective of the SAC is to give advice to the IASB, and occasionally the IASCF Trustees, on its key strategic issues and major standard setting projects, and promote the use of IFRSs. The SAC is made up of 48 members representing market regulators and international professional organizations, financial statement users, accounting professionals, accounting standard setters, financial statement preparers, and academia. IAAER holds the only academic seat and is represented by Skaife.

Skaife indicated that much of the first meeting, held in February, was spent reviewing and discussing the role of the SAC in the IASB's standard setting process. One outcome of this meeting was the appointment of an Agenda Committee that would promote the involvement of the SAC in relevant standard setting issues. Other topics addressed in the first meeting included an overview of the IASB'S work plan, The IASB's activities related to the financial crisis, the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of the convergence with US GAAP, and a technical presentation on the Financial Statement Presentation project.

At the second SAC meeting, held in June, Skaife noted there were updates and discussions devoted to the IASB's work related to the financial crisis and the potential development of a "fast-track" mechanism for the IASB's due process in unusual circumstances. In addition, the SAC provided comments on the consistency of application of IFRSs and the need for a project on other comprehensive income (OCI) as the financial statement presentation project as originally written does not address OCI. Skaife also stated that the SAC supported the completion of the conceptual framework project on a timely basis.

Skaife will observe a meeting of the Monitoring Board this October in NY. Street, who may be in NY at this time, indicated she will also try to observe the open meeting.

### **IAESB Report and ACCA/IAAER/IAESB Deliverable Update**

Sundem reported that the IAAER/ACCA/IAESB research projects are well underway. Three of the four teams will make presentations on Wednesday, August 5, 8:30am –noon at IFAC Headquarters, 545 Fifth Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York City. All IAAER EC members are invited to attend and participate. Copies of the interim reports will be available on-site.

Sundem stated that one team has been delayed by data-gathering problems and will submit a written report by year-end and will definitely present at the EAA meetings in Istanbul in May, 2009. The other teams have the option of presenting at that time. Pekdemir is organizing the Istanbul EAA meeting and has arranged for the IAAER teams to be on the program.

The IAESB has been extremely supportive of the projects. The first deliverables, presented in Munich in February, were video-conferenced back to IFAC in New York, and the IAESB's Consultative Advisory Board actively participated in the discussion.

The IAESB's most recent meeting was in NY in June. The main item of business of interest to IAAER is the Board's Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2012. The IAESB proposes to undertake three high-priority activities, beginning in 2010. These are:

- Conducting a revision of the IESs, considering results of the IAESB's drafting conventions project and recent developments in the accountancy profession;
- Developing implementation guidance in areas of measurable implementation of the IESs, competency frameworks, and quality control measures for education providers; and
- Promoting greater awareness among academics, regulators, and others of the IAESB's pronouncements and its role in advancing international debate on emerging issues relating to development and assessment of professional accountants.

Sundem encouraged everyone to submit comments on the plan. Interested parties can comment on-line at [www.ifac.org/Guidance/EXD-Outstanding.php](http://www.ifac.org/Guidance/EXD-Outstanding.php). More information is available at <http://www.ifac.org/MediaCenter/?=node/view/655>. Comments on the exposure draft are requested by October 5, 2009. One area in which comments would be especially helpful is a prioritization of standards for revision – e.g. which are in most need of revision immediately.

At its next meeting, the IAESB is likely to finalize its "Proposed Framework for International Education Standards for Professional Accountants." Karen Pincus has led the effort to develop this framework. You can see a draft of the proposed framework and comment letters at <http://www.ifac.org/Guidance/EXD-Details.php?EDID=0120>. After extensive discussion at the June meeting, a final draft of the framework is being developed for the Board's October meeting.

## **President's Updates**

Given the importance of devoting substantial time to the IASB update and World Bank updates, Street deferred discussion of several items. However, she had recently circulated a detailed report on IAAER recent activities to the EC for review. After the EC reviewed the report, Street had submitted it to the IAAER Advisory Board. Items covered in the report included, but were not limited to,

- KPMG/IAAER/IASB and ACCA/IAAER/IAASB calls.
- IASCF/IAAER IFRS Teaching and Research Workshops
- 2010 World Congress in Singapore
- ACCA MOU programs

- June 2009 consortia Bucharest and Sao Paulo.
- 2010 consortia Istanbul
- 2009 Roundtables IFRS for SMEs
- 2010 Roundtables likely on carbon accounting

(Editor's note: please see the president's letter included in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 issue of COMSOS for an update on the above and other IAAER activities).

## **IASB Update**

Barth discussed her responsibilities as the IASB Liaison with the academic community and her work.

Barth reported that earlier in the day, she, Sir David Tweedie, Street, Sid Gray (IAAER Advisory Board Chair), and Kauzo Hiramatsu (IAAER Advisory Board) met to discuss the issue of academic representation on the IASB given her recent departure from the Board. Based on a list developed during this meeting by those in attendance, she described some of the qualities a potential Board member should likely possess. The candidate should among other things have a practice focus, technical knowledge of IFRS, be collegial, and have a solid knowledge of the relevant academic literature. Also of great importance is to consider fit with the geographical distribution set out in the IASCF constitution. In the next two years, academics should consider that representatives from North America, Australia, and South Africa will roll off the IASB. Barth reported that the IASB will expand to 16 members in 2011.

Barth pointed out that the process of recruiting IASB members is on-going—the Trustees are always considering recruiting. IAAER will attempt to arrange a meeting with members of the Nominations Committee of the Trustees of the IASCF and offer our assistance in identifying qualified candidates for a forthcoming IASB position. IAAER will work with its academic institutional members to do all the Association can to aid this process by encouraging highly qualified academics to apply. Street will draft a letter and send to the IASCF within the next few weeks offering IAAER's assistance.

## **Scheduling of IAAER Executive Committee Meetings at AAA and EAA**

Previts addressed scheduling conflicts which have occurred in recent years when the EC Meeting and the General Meeting of IAAER have been held concurrently with the annual meeting of AAA. Street noted that because the amount of activities of IAAER has expanded greatly in recent years, the EC will need to begin meeting for at least a full day in connection with the Association's meetings held each year in conjunction with the AAA and the EAA. She also reminded those in attendance that an agreement had been made with the EAA and AAA years ago to always meet in connection with their annual conference to enhance collaborations.

It was agreed that, in the future, the IAAER EC Meeting will be held on the Thursday following the conclusion of AAA, and in 2010 it will be a full day meeting. Street thanked the AAA Executive Committee for discussing this issue and assisting in arriving at the best possible solution.

Christenson will contact Aileen Pierce to discuss scheduling of the IAAER EC in conjunction with the 2010 annual meeting of EAA. Street had asked Pierce to consider what timing would be best for the EAA leaders during the May EC meeting in Tampere but there had been no follow-up. Similar to the situation with AAA, several IAAER EC members also hold leadership positions with the EAA.

### **World Bank Collaborations**

Cairns described two projects where the World Bank and IAAER plan to work together. The first is to offer annual networking sessions for senior faculty in the new EU states and candidate states. The project was kicked off with a roundtable and reception hosted by IAAER and the World Bank during the EAA meeting in Tampere. The first networking sessions are targeted for 2010. Earlier in the day Cairns had meet with Street, Barth and Skaife. They tentatively agreed that IAAER would be willing to assist the World Bank in its assessment of IFRS implementation by developing an academic project to complement the Bank's traditional ROSC assessments. Barth and Skaife will help design a research project to assess IFRS implementation in Poland. The research will be conducted under the IAAER banner and the research team will include Polish academics. Hopefully the research model will later be utilized in other countries.

### **COSMOS**

Radebaugh reviewed current activities of the COSMOS editorial team and cited upgrades that have occurred. He invited members of the EC to suggest possible additions or deletions from the draft issue of COSMOS that he distributed for the Committee's review. Street reminded that going forward COSMOS will include an IAESB update by Sundem and a SAC update by Skaife.

### **Accounting Education an international journal**

Wilson reported on current and future developments at Accounting Education:

- The minutes of the last meeting were corrected: There were 4 regular issues of *AE* each year (with an occasional Supplement) from 1992 to 2008. In 2009 there will be five regular issues, and from 2010 there will be six regular issues each year – one of which will be devoted to teaching resources.
- Wilson noted IAAER provides no financial resourcing to support *AE*, carries no commercial risk, and has no editorial control. However, several current and past members of the IAAER EC represent IAAER on the *AE* Editorial Board and IAAER VP Education Sundem serves as the IAAER Editorial Advisor to *AE*.
- Each year the British Accounting Association's Special Interest Group (BAA-SIG) on Accounting Education provides a prize for the best paper published in the previous year's volume of *AE*. The winners for *AE* Volume 17 (2008) are: Grant Samkin and Graham Francis (both of the University of Waikato, New Zealand at the time their paper was published) for their paper: "Introducing a Learning Portfolio in an Undergraduate Financial Accounting Course" which appeared in *AE* 17(3), September 2008, pp 233-271. The electorate for this award is *AE*'s Editorial Advisory Board (on which the

IAAER is represented by Giuseppe Galassi, and Lesley Stainbank (with Serge Evraert, Simon Ho, Bel Needles, Recep Pekdemir and Salvador Ruis-de-Chavez also being members).

- Themed issues awaiting publication are:
  - Enhancing Generic Skills in Accounting
  - The Interface Between Academic Education and Professional Training for Accountants
  
- Themed issues under development are:
  - Audit education
  - Developments in Accounting Education in the Orient
  - Liberalising the Accounting Curriculum
  - Teaching IFRS

Editor's note: The latter will spotlight papers based on presentations made at the IASCF/IAAER IFRS Teaching and Research workshop offered during IAAER's co-sponsored meeting with ANCPONT (Sao Paulo, June 2009).

## **JIFMA**

Gordon reported that 23 papers were submitted for the "fast track" process from the Munich conference. Approximately ½ of these were passed on to Fred Choi to be considered for publication in *JIFMA*.

Street noted that Choi was very pleased with Gordon's effort and excited about the quality of papers forwarded to him.

## **Board of Advisor Recommendations**

Street provided some feedback on her meeting with the AB on Tuesday. The Nominating Committee will soon be formed and a call for nominations will go out in the next several months. EC members will be asked to prepare an activity report prior to our next meeting at EAA. The report will be shared with the Nominations Committee.

Street also reported that the AB accepted the EC's rationale for not restructuring as a Federation.

The EC and AB are in agreement that IAAER eventually have an Executive Director. However, the AB understands that funds are not presently sufficient to hire a qualified person full time. The AB accepts the EC's recommendation that a good interim step would be to appoint a Director of Research and Education Programs on a year-to-year basis. One option discussed with the AB (following up on EC discussions at Tampere), which the Board was open to, is to buy out time from an university for the Director. Two options were discussed by the EC (a professor emeritus compensated part-time or buying out time of an endowed chair / senior full professor from an university). The Director must have the skills to coordinate IAAER's growing grant

programs, consortia, etc and have fund raising ability. The EC agreed that it would be desirable to see the first appointment in 2010. Street will appoint a small committee to address this issue.

Street reminded everyone about the importance of attending the General Meeting and the reception for Institutional and University members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm and the EC members moved to the General Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

John T. Ahern Jr.