

American Economic Association  
Committee on Economic Education

Minutes of Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021

Virtual meeting

Members present: KimMarie McGoldrick (chair), Carlos Asarta, Bill Goffe, Allen Goodman, Paul Grimes, Oskar Harmon, James Hornsten, John List, James Peyton, Wendy Stock, Sam Allgood (ex officio).

Guests: Rita Balaban, Andrew Hill, and Gail Hoyt

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

1. Membership.

This was the last meeting for Bill Goffe and Oskar Harmon. This was the first meeting for Paul Grimes and John List as members. The president of the AEA approved the membership of Rita Balaban, Andrew Hill, and Gail Hoyt. Their first meeting will be the 2022 meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes and Annual Report

Minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2020 in San Diego and AEA-CEE Report for 2020 were approved.

3. Annual Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE)

The 2020 conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was not sufficient time to organize a virtual version of the conference.

The 2021 CTREE conference will be the tenth annual, to be held in Portland Oregon, June 2-4.

The normal submission deadline was extended by two weeks, given the significant time burdens many faculty experienced this fall. The extension generated a significant number of high-quality submissions. The conference organizing committee completed their initial review of submissions and the submission rates were robust. They are on track to send out acceptance/rejection notifications by February 1. Once again, we offered the opportunity for those not presenting to volunteer to chair a session or serve as a discussant. The response was robust enough to continue this practice.

The decision as to whether the 2021 conference will be face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual will be finalized early this spring.

Last year's decision to increase registration and publisher fees will be revisited once the conference format decision is finalized.

The 2022 CTREE conference will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago, June 1-3.

4. Special projects

a. Coordinated activities with the AEA Task Force on Outreach to High School and Undergraduate Students in Economics (Chaired by Sam Allgood with KimMarie McGoldrick serving as a member).

i. **Expanding Diversity in Undergraduate Classes with Advancements in (the) Teaching (of) Economics (EDUCATE) Workshop, January 5-7, 2021.**

Over 100 applications were received for this 25-participant pilot program. This teacher training workshop is designed to provide opportunities for instructors of introductory courses to take part in course design activities and experience pedagogical strategies that will engage all of the students they teach. The workshop will provide opportunities for attendees to identify learning objectives that focus on students' ability to "do economics" and to participate in pedagogical practices that enable students to be active participants in economic analysis. The workshop will begin with an exploration of how to construct learning objectives and utilize them in the backwards course design process. Participants will then be introduced to pedagogical practices that are collaborative and inclusive including cooperative

learning, engaging lectures, data integration and classroom experiments. By the end of the workshop, participants will draft a plan to integrate lessons learned into their own introductory courses. To further support development and implementation, participants will join a buddy pairing (overseen by a mentor) with the express goal of supporting the enhancement of teaching practices after the workshop has concluded. Participants will be provided opportunities to share their work at the 2022 CTREE and ASSA meetings.

- ii. A pilot high school outreach program for underrepresented minorities is under development. (Although time constraints at the meeting prevented a discussion of this program, it is included here for documentation purposes.) The program is designed to introduce students in grades 10-12 to a broad set of questions that economists tackle and are relevant to their lives. Students will get hands-on opportunities to explore each topic, be exposed to the economic analysis used to investigate these questions, and participate in activities led by a diverse group of economists from undergraduate students to faculty and from multiples genders and racial/ethnic backgrounds.
  - iii. Survey of department chairs. (Although time constraints at the meeting prevented a discussion of this program, it is included here for documentation purposes.) A survey was conducted to identify the degree to which departments are making curricular changes in order to appeal to underrepresented students.
- b. Resources for Community College Faculty and Students. Carlos Asarta and James Peyton continued their work to identify resources to develop and post on the AEA-CEE website in support of community college faculty. They conducted focus groups to identify how participants searched for class-related materials, reflected on the AEA-CEE web pages, and reacted to a draft landing page for community college faculty resources.
  - c. The Director of AP Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at the College Board contacted the Chair to explore potential partnerships. Paul Grimes is serving as our liaison with this group. A number of Committee members served as Visiting Fellows for the AP examinations in the fall, reviewing and providing reflective feedback.
  - d. Resources for Educators on the AEA website. The landing page of resources for community college faculty was supported as a resource that would be helpful for all faculty. The Committee will spend the spring constructing the content of such pages with the goal of having them available in time to announce at the 2021 CTREE conference.
5. Brief Reports on 2021 AEA-CEE paper sessions at the virtual ASSA meetings
- a. “Teaching Economics: Lessons from the Fields” was organized and presided over by Allen Goodman. The session was attended by 60-65.
  - b. “What Does Critical Thinking Mean in Economics, the Big and Little of it?” was organized by David Colander and John Siegfried and presided over by Gail Hoyt. The session was attended by 195-200.
  - c. “How Do We Use Readings Beyond the Textbook? Survey Results and Examples” was organized by Sam Allgood and KimMarie McGoldrick and presided over by Sam Allgood. The session was attended by 55-60.
  - d. “Teaching Innovative Courses in Economics?” was organized and presided over by Wendy Stock. The session was attended by 65-70.
  - e. “Enhancing Learning in Economics” was organized and presided over by KimMarie McGoldrick. The session was attended by 65-70.
  - f. “AEA Committee on Economic Education Poster Session” was organized and presided over by Bill Goffe. Session attendance is not available as the poster session was open throughout the meetings.
  - g. The Chair attended the Breakfast for Department Chairs and shared an overview of the activities of the CEE, highlighting the CTREE conference, EDUCATE workshop and sessions at the ASSA meetings.

6. Annual Report from the *Journal of Economic Education (JEE)*  
KimMarie McGoldrick, co-editor, shared the *Journal* report and reaffirmed the commitment of the *Journal* as a co-sponsor of CTREE. The *Journal* also continues to sponsor a session at the AEA meetings which is subsequently published as a symposium.
7. Brief Reports on plans/assignments for the 2022 AEA meetings (January 7-9, Boston): (a) *AEA Proceedings* (List); (b) Annual poster session on innovative teaching methods (Goffe/Balaban); (c) Literacy Targeted Principles (Wendy Stock); (d) Diversity in Introductory Courses (Grimes); (e) JEE session: AEA Task Force on Outreach (Allgood) (f) TBA (Hoyt); (g) Teaching in the Time of COVID-19 (Allgood and McGoldrick) (g) EDUCATE participants session (Allgood and McGoldrick)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

KimMarie McGoldrick, Chair