

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee in Chicago, IL, January 4, 2007.

The second meeting of the 2006 Executive Committee was called to order at 9:30 A.M. January 4, 2007 in the Comiskey Room of the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Members present were: George Akerlof, Judith Chevalier, Susan Collins, Janet Currie, Martin Feldstein, Roger Gordon, Oliver Hart, Lawrence Katz, Alan Krueger, Daniel McFadden, Olivia Mitchell, Robert Moffitt, Christina Romer, Thomas Sargent, Andrei Shleifer, and John Siegfried. Also attending were Avinash Dixit, newly elected President-Elect; Rebecca Blank and Kenneth Rogoff, newly elected Vice-Presidents; and Anne Case and David Romer, newly elected Executive Committee members. Attending parts of the meeting in order to give committee reports were: Katharine Abraham, Chair of the Committee on Economic Statistics; Lisa Lynch, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP); Cecilia Rouse, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP); and Charles Becker, Director of the Association's Summer Program. Blank, Robert Hall, Eric Maskin, and John Quigley attended as chairs of search committees for editors of the Association's four new *American Economic Journals*. Steven Husted attended to report on EconLit developments. Executive Director William Damon, General Counsel Terry Calvani, and staff members Michelle deBlasi, Dru Ekwurzel, Barbara Fiser, Marlene Hight, Edda Leithner, Steven Stelling, and Jane Voros also attended.

Akerlof welcomed the newly elected members of the 2007 Executive Committee and noted that this was the last meeting for Feldstein, Hart, C. Romer, Currie and Mitchell. He thanked them for their service. Akerlof presented McFadden with his AEA Distinguished Fellow certificate. The minutes of the April 28, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

Report of the Secretary (Siegfried). Siegfried reviewed the schedule of future meetings. New Orleans, January 4-6, 2008 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday); San Francisco, January 3-5, 2009 (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday); Atlanta, January 3-5, 2010 (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday); Denver, January 7-9, 2011 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday); Chicago, January 6-8, 2012 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday); and San Diego, January 4-6, 2013 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). The Executive Committee meets the day prior to the beginning of the regular meeting each year.

Atlanta, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Antonio submitted bids for 2014. It was VOTED to authorize the Secretary to negotiate with Philadelphia hotels to host the 2014 meeting.

At its January 2006 meeting, the Executive Committee instructed the ASSA Session Allocation Committee to reduce the allocation to non-AEA associations by 13. The Committee did that in early 2006, basing its decisions on relative attendance at sessions over the prior four years. Two affected allied associations appealed the reallocations. The Executive Committee affirmed the use of attendance as the primary criterion to allocate sessions by the Session Allocation Committee. The Secretary was asked to ensure that the general criteria (attendance) used to allocate sessions was known to the participating societies.

There followed a discussion of the allocation of annual Association meeting session slots and publication "rights" to the annual *Papers & Proceedings* among the Association's

committees. The Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession controls 6 session slots, and the Committee on Economic Education controls 7 slots. It was VOTED to approve requests by the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession to control 2 session slots and the Committee on Economic Statistics to control 3 session slots, raising the annual number of sessions controlled by committees to 18.

For many years, the papers from 24 sessions at the Association's annual meeting have been published in the *Papers & Proceedings*. One of these is the Ely Lecture; four others are sessions organized by the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (2), the Committee on Economic Education (1), and the National Economic Association (1). Anticipating requests from the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession and the Committee on Economic Statistics to publish one session annually in the *Papers & Proceedings* (see below), it was decided to ask the president to appoint a committee to evaluate the role of the annual *Papers & Proceedings* issue of the *American Economic Review* and to consider the appropriate criteria for allocating rights to publish in the issue.

Siegfried announced that the Association applied for trademark protection for the *American Economic Journal* name. He reported that to reduce costs, and to speed the production process, the Association's Pittsburgh office was assuming responsibility for composition (typesetting) of the Association's journals, starting with the *AER's* May 2007 issue, the *JEL* in 2008, and the *AEJ* journals in 2009. He described plans for the administrative organization of the *AEJ* journals, including two managing editors who would each be responsible for a pair of *AEJ* journals. It is anticipated that the first *AEJ* journals will be published in 2009, with two appearing in January, April, July, and October, and the other two in February, May, August, and November.

Siegfried announced that the first meeting of the 2007 Executive Committee would be on Friday, April 20, 2007 in Chicago, IL.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Review (Moffitt). Moffitt commented on his written report, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He announced that the responsibilities of Jane Voros, Managing Editor of the *AER*, had been expanded recently to include general oversight of the four *AEJ* journals. Michelle deBlasi, Assistant Managing Editor of the *AER*, is temporarily acting as Managing Editor for all four new *AEJ* journals. When the *AEJ* journals begin to publish, deBlasi will become Managing Editor of two of them, and an additional Managing Editor will be hired for the other two. Steven Stelling has been appointed Assistant Managing Editor of the *AER*.

Moffitt reported that the steady growth of submissions to the *AER* had finally abated, settling near 1,300 per year. The first year of the policy of returning submitted manuscripts deemed to have little chance of being published in the *AER* to authors without referee reports was 2006. About 12 percent of submissions were handled this way, also returning the submission fee to the author(s). The process reduces wear and tear on referees, and also allows authors to submit their manuscripts to other more appropriate publication outlets sooner. He reported that the institution of this new procedure helped to reduce the elapsed time from submission to final decision, and that the co-editors had also successfully reduced the number of manuscripts that

take the longest time between submission and decision. Moffitt also reported that 100 percent of the non-exempt empirical papers published in 2006 had complied with the *AER's* data depository policy.

Following Moffitt's recommendation, it was VOTED to reappoint Tom Lemieux, and Lones Smith to second three-year terms on the Board of Editors, ending December 31, 2009, to reappoint John List to a second three-year term on the Board of Editors, ending March 31, 2010, and to appoint Shelly Lundberg, Kaivan Munshi, Holger Sieg, and Andrzej Skrzpacz to the Board of Editors for three-year terms ending December 31, 2009.

Report of the Editor of the Journal of Economic Literature (Gordon). Gordon reviewed his written report, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He introduced Steven Husted, Managing Director of *EconLit* for Product Design and Content, and described progress on *EconLit* for Members, which provides direct access to *EconLit* via a search engine provided by the Association. The service should begin in 2007. Gordon reported that another of Husted's priorities is to find ways to reduce the cost of assigning *JEL* codes to articles. Although existing software aimed at this task has produced disappointing results compared to human classification, the search continues. Finally, Gordon announced that the *EconLit* data base now includes an indicator for the type of audience each entry is likely to interest, such as undergraduate students, researchers, or business economists. The database also is being expanded to include an indicator of relevant geographic region in order to increase its value to users.

Acting on Gordon's recommendation, the Executive Committee VOTED to reappoint Daron Acemoglu, Abhijit Banerjee, Richard Blundell, Severin Borenstein, Varadarajan Chari, Janet Currie, Gene Grossman, Gordon Hanson, Dani Rodrick, Thomas Sargent, Jeffrey Woodridge, and Luigi Zingales, and to appoint Andrew Atkinson, Roel Beetsma, Raj Chetty, Ray Fisman, John List, Alan Taylor, and M. Scott Taylor to the Board of Editors for three-year terms ending December 31, 2009.

Report of the Editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives (Shleifer). Shleifer referred to his written report, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He announced that Michael Waldman's term as co-editor ended in December 2006; Jeremy Stein is his successor. Shleifer recognized Waldman's substantial contributions to the *Journal* over his six years as a co-editor. Acting on Shleifer's recommendation, the Executive Committee voted to appoint Rachel Kranton, Fiona Scott Morton and Bruce Sacerdote as Associate Editors to three-year terms ending in December 2009.

Report of the Director of Job Openings for Economists (Siegfried). Siegfried reviewed his written report, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He reported that new jobs listed in *JOE* increased by 2 percent from 2005 to 2006.

The Department of Economics at the University of Vermont asked for a review of the Association's policy regarding appropriate language in job listings in *JOE* that was passed by the Executive Committee in 1986 and reaffirmed in 2005. Vermont objected to the implementation of the Association's policy "to not knowingly publish paid or unpaid advertising or notices for products, services, or positions that are made available in a fashion that discriminates on the

basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, sexual preference, or physical handicap.. Since 1986 the policy has been interpreted not only to prohibit listings that indicate such discrimination in hiring, but also to prohibit listings that identify a welcoming or encouragement of applications from specifically identifiable groups. The policy has permitted statements to the effect that an employer is an equal employment opportunity and/or affirmative action employer, and statements that welcome applications from underrepresented groups (so long as the groups are not identified) or champion workforce diversity. . . .

There followed a lengthy discussion considering advice memos on the issue from both the Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, and the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession. Eventually, in order to improve the balance between promoting an open market in hiring economists and facilitating affirmative action, the Executive Committee VOTED to adopt a listing policy for *JOE* that prohibits language indicating discriminatory preferences in hiring decisions, but allows language that encourages or welcomes applications from either (a): identifiable underrepresented groups, or (b) identifiable groups for which the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other applicable laws permit preferences in hiring decisions. It was further VOTED to require employers who submit listings to *JOE* to certify that the language in the listing complies with relevant U.S. laws, orders, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. And it was VOTED to reaffirm that the Association does not endorse any form of discrimination in hiring. The Director of *JOE* was instructed to revise the *JOE* website in order to clarify that the Association's policy allows employers to identify a desire for applications from identifiable eligible groups in order to increase the diversity of their applicant pool, but it does not permit employers to identify group membership that is either preferred or essential for employment.

Appointment of Editors for American Economic Journals. Blank, Hall, Maskin, and Quigley reported the procedures and criteria their search committees used to identify candidates for the editorship of each of the new *American Economic Journals*. It was VOTED to appoint Esther Duflo as founding editor of the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. It was VOTED to appoint Olivier Blanchard as founding editor of the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*. It was VOTED to appoint Andrew Postlewaite as founding editor of the *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*. It was VOTED to appoint Alan Auerbach as founding editor of the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. . . . Each was appointed to a term ending December 2010.

A lengthy discussion of editorial issues then ensued. It was VOTED to ask the four *AEJ* founding editors, the editors of the *AER*, *JEL*, and *JEP*, and the Secretary-Treasurer to establish a set of guidelines for the new journals that are consistent across the Association's journals. It was suggested that the editors consider ways to share submissions and referee reports that include the voluntary participation of editors, authors and referees, in order to reduce burdens on referees and editors, and to speed the process of moving high-quality manuscripts to publication. It was also suggested that the editors develop general policies toward data depository requirements, the solicitation of manuscripts, submission fees, and refereeing practices.

Report of the Advisory Committee on Editorial Appointments (Mitchell). Following the Committee's recommendation, it was VOTED to establish a term limit of three three-year terms

for editors and co-editors of the four *American Economic Journals*. These limits are similar to those for the editor and co-editors of the *American Economic Review*.

There followed a brief discussion of the difficulties presented to editors whose primary employment is based on an academic year by the Association's practice of changing editors in January. The Secretary was asked to investigate the possibility of establishing editorial appointments that conform to academic years.

Reappointment of the Editor of the American Economic Review. Following a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Editorial Appointments, it was VOTED to appoint Robert Moffitt to a second three-year term ending December 2010 as Editor of the *American Economic Review*.

Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (Lynch). Lynch announced that Monika Piazzesi and Barbara Fraumeni had received the Committee's 2006 Elaine Bennett Research Prize and Carolyn Shaw Bell Award, respectively. She reported that CSWEP continues to survey economics Ph.D. granting universities about their graduate student and faculty gender composition. About 29 percent of new assistant professors, 24 percent of associate professors, and 8 percent of full professors are female. Women constitute about 32 percent of current economics Ph.D. students.

Lynch reported that the Committee's National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to provide mentoring workshops for young female economists would likely be extended through 2009. Following a brief discussion of the long-run anticipated benefits of the workshops during which strong support was expressed for continuing them, it was decided to ask the president to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to consider whether the Association should support a continuation of the mentoring workshops after the NSF grant expires in 2009.

Report of the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (Rouse). Rouse reported that 11 percent of bachelor's degrees in economics and 7 percent of Ph.D.s in economics are now awarded to African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Of 3,100 economics faculty covered by the 2005 AEA Universal Academic Questionnaire, 160 were African-American or Hispanic. She noted that CSMGEP's two primary priorities were its Summer Program to prepare undergraduate minorities for Ph.D. programs in economics, and its mentoring program (formerly called the pipeline program) that assists and encourages former Summer Program participants through their Ph.D. studies and early career development.

The Summer Program was hosted by Duke University from 2004 through 2007. Following the recommendation of CSMGEP, it was VOTED to accept a proposal from the University of California-Santa Barbara to host the program from 2008 through 2010. It was VOTED to increase the Association's financial contribution to the Summer Program to \$170,000 annually starting in 2008, with a 5 percent addition in each succeeding year.

After CSMGEP was given control of two sessions at the annual meeting, it requested that one of these sessions be published in the *Papers & Proceedings*. The request was referred to the *ad hoc* committee appointed to review the *Papers & Proceedings*.

Report of the Committee on Economic Statistics (Abraham). Abraham commented on a written report from her predecessor, William Nordhaus, and announced that the Committee planned to increase its activities in the near future.

After CES was given control of three sessions at the annual meeting, it requested that one of these sessions be published in the *Papers & Proceedings*. The request was referred to the *ad hoc* committee appointed to review the *Papers & Proceedings*.

The 2007 Program (Sargent). Sargent thanked his Program Committee for their help in organizing the program. The members of the Committee are identified on p. ii of the Program.

The 2008 Program (Dixit). Dixit announced that he had appointed a Program Committee of 18 economists, and that Sir Nicholas Stern agreed to deliver the 2008 Ely Lecture in New Orleans. His topic will be climate change.

Report of the Treasurer (Siegfried). Siegfried reported the projected financial results for 2006 (based on nine months actual and estimated fourth quarter results) show a \$1.04 million surplus. He presented the proposed 2007 budget, which is published in Table 1 accompanying the Treasurer's report in this issue of the *AER*. It projects an operating surplus of \$464 thousand. Following a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee, it was VOTED to approve the 2007 budget.

It was VOTED to approve a Budget and Finance Committee recommendation permitting the Association to sign referee checks electronically, with a self-imposed limit of \$500 per check.

The Association's net unrestricted assets on September 30, 2006 were \$14.3 million, or 2.1 times gross budgeted expenditures for 2007. The Association's target ratio of unrestricted assets to gross expenditures is 2.0. Expenditures are expected to accelerate in 2008 and 2009 as publication of the *American Economic Journals* progresses.

New Business. Hall proposed that those elected as vice-presidents continue to serve on the Executive Committee after their year as vice-president so as to exploit their experience. Such a change would increase the voting members of the Executive Committee from 12 to 14 if the vice-presidents remained on the Executive Committee for an additional year, or from 12 to 16 if the vice-presidents remained on the Executive Committee for two additional years. With the scheduled expansion of the Executive Committee by four (non-voting) editors, this change could increase the total size of the Executive Committee from 16 to 24. It was decided to ask the president to appoint a committee to study the ramifications of expanding the Executive Committee and to make a recommendation regarding Hall's proposal.

Charles Plott asked the Executive Committee to consider increasing the Association's advocacy role in funding economic research in line with one of the Association's charter purposes, namely "the encouragement of economic research". Counsel Calvani noted that any such efforts would need to comply with another portion of the Association's charter, specifying that "the Association" will take no partisan attitude, nor will it commit its members to any

position on practical economic questions. It was decided to ask the president to appoint a committee to investigate the advocacy activities of other academic societies, to identify successful strategies, and to evaluate the extent to which the Association's advocacy efforts are constrained by the third listed purpose in its charter.

There being no further business to conduct, it was VOTED to adjourn at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. SIEGFRIED, *Secretary*

Feb. 12, 2007