

vacant positions, and a “signaling” procedure each November, through which candidates can indicate special interest in two listed positions. Roth reported the second year of the scramble worked more smoothly than the first, as candidates and employers gained experience. He also reported on the first year of signaling. In 2006, 969 job candidates sent signals, including about 500 new economists awarded PhDs by US universities. Most sent two signals; a few sent only one. The signals appear to have been useful to job candidates who used them to attract attention from potential employers who might otherwise have not interviewed them. The Committee plans to continue the signaling service in 2007 with minor refinements.

Report of the Treasurer (Siegfried). Siegfried reported that the audited financial statements for 2006 show an operating surplus of \$1,041 thousand for 2006 in contrast to \$1,240 thousand for 2005, and \$573 thousand for 2004. Including investment income and capital gains, there was an overall 2006 surplus of \$2.8 million.

Siegfried presented a revised budget for 2007, predicting an operating surplus of \$330 thousand; \$464 thousand had been predicted in January. Most of the revision was due to a \$93 thousand reduction of expected membership dues and institutional subscriptions based on the revised count of members and subscribers in March 2007.

The combined operating surplus and portfolio gain increased the December 2006 ratio of the Association’s accumulated net unrestricted assets to annual expenditures (including the ASSA meeting gross) to 2.2, exceeding the target of 2.0 established by the Executive Committee in 1999. In view of expected one-time launch costs of several million dollars for the Association’s new journals in 2007 and 2008, it is prudent for this ratio to exceed 2.0 temporarily.

The Association’s net unrestricted assets as of December 31, 2006, were \$15.9 million, up from \$13.1 million on December 31, 2005. Net unrestricted assets reflect “net worth.” Total assets on December 31, 2006, were \$19.7 million, of which \$18.6 million consisted of cash and financial investments and \$1.0 million were accounts receivable. Liabilities were \$3.7 million, of which \$2.9 million consisted of pre-paid membership dues and subscriptions.

There being no further business to conduct, it was VOTED to adjourn at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee in New Orleans, LA, January 3, 2008.

The second meeting of the 2007 Executive Committee was called to order at 10:15 A.M. January 3, 2008, in the Compass Room of the New Orleans Hilton. Members present were: George Akerlof, Alan Auerbach, Olivier Blanchard, Rebecca Blank, Anne Case, Judith Chevalier, Susan Collins, Avinash Dixit, Esther Duflo, Roger Gordon, Lawrence Katz, Alan Krueger, Daniel McFadden, Robert Moffitt, Andrew Postlewaite, Kenneth Rogoff, David Romer, Thomas Sargent, Andrei Shleifer, and John Siegfried. Also attending were Angus Deaton, newly elected President-elect; Katharine Abraham and Maurice Obstfeld, newly elected Vice-Presidents; and Janice Eberly, newly elected Executive Committee member. Attending parts of the meeting in order to give committee or representative reports were: Jonathan Eaton, Representative to the International Economic Association; Lisa Lynch, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP); Gregory Price, President of the National Economic Association; Michael Watts, Chair of the Committee on Economic Education; and Charles Becker, former Director of the Association’s Summer Program. Executive Director William Damon, General Counsel Terry Calvani, and staff members Mary Kay Akerman, Dru Ekwurzel, Barbara Fiser, Marlene Hight, Edda Leithner, Regina Montgomery, and Jane Voros also attended.

Sargent welcomed the newly elected members of the 2008 Executive Committee and noted that this was the last meeting for Blank, Chevalier, Krueger, McFadden, and Rogoff. He thanked them for their service. The minutes of the April 20, 2007, meeting were approved as written.

Report of the Secretary (Siegfried). Siegfried reviewed the future meetings schedule: 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); San Diego, January 4–6, 2013 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday); and Philadelphia, January 3–5, 2014 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). The Executive Committee meets the day before the regular meeting each year.

Atlanta, Boston, San Antonio, and Washington DC submitted bids for 2015. It was VOTED to authorize the Secretary to negotiate with Boston hotels to host the 2015 meeting.

Siegfried reported that Quebecor was not providing satisfactory printing services for the *JEL*, e.g., the June 2007 *JEL* was printed with the March 2007 cover on it. After issuing a request for proposals and visiting two prospects, the Association has contracted with Allen Press of Lawrence, Kansas, to print the *JEL* starting with March 2008. Siegfried also reported that Banta has printed the *AER* since the 1920s and the *JEP* since it was initiated. R. R. Donnelley acquired Banta in 2007, and moved printing of the *AER* and *JEP* from Banta's Menasha, Wisconsin, plant to a Donnelley facility in Eldridge, Iowa, during summer 2007.

Since September 2007, the *AER* has been composed (typeset) at the Association's Pittsburgh office. In-house composition for the *JEL* starts with March 2008. The *AEJs* will be composed in-house from their start. *JEP* composition will also be brought in-house eventually.

The Association's journals are sold as a bundle to subscribers (institutions) for \$375 in 2008. There are about 3,900 subscribers; 500 order an add-on electronic site license (for an additional \$375). The AEA "package" of journals is the lowest priced per page among hundreds of economics journals on Ted Bergstrom's Web site.

Several events in 2007 precipitated a change in the price structure for the journals. First, the US Postal Service eliminated foreign surface postage. Sending print journals overseas first class (the remaining practical option) now costs over \$15 per piece. This caused a switch to freight forwarding, raising the cost of foreign postage to about \$5 per issue. CD shipping is unaffected because CDs already were shipped first class.

Foreign postage rates affect both members and subscribers. The premium charged to members and subscribers for foreign postage changed in January 2008 from a flat \$30 annually to \$15 *per journal shipped out of the US in print*. For those getting three print journals, foreign postage rose from \$30 to \$45; for those taking three journals on CDs, foreign postage declined from \$30 to zero. Foreign postage for journals continues to be subsidized. The new postage premiums may induce more foreign members to elect CDs, which are shipped first class.

The second event was a request for a discount from EBSCO, an agent that handles about half of the Association's institutional subscriptions. The Association pays no discounts because there are few savings realized by receiving aggregated orders from agents. Orders are still processed individually. Advanced payment in US dollars is required from all subscribers and so is not a benefit of using agents. The Association charges the same price for its journals whether ordered directly by subscribers or through an agent because the incremental cost of order processing is comparable. While agents may reduce bank deposit preparation time, they also can convert otherwise small problems (an overlooked order) into larger ones (many overlooked orders).

The Association declined EBSCO's request for a discount because its services to the Association do not warrant a meaningful discount off prices charged to subscribers that order direct. The Association does not set the price charged by agents to subscribers. However, EBSCO prefers not to raise its prices to subscribers. (It advertises that the cost to subscribers is the same whether they order direct or via an agent.) Starting in 2008, a subscription for the Association's journals is \$375 ordered direct, \$395 ordered through an agent; agents and direct subscribers remit \$375 per order. If agents charge \$395, this structure permits a \$20 discount.

EBSCO remains dissatisfied; it now requires the Association to separately invoice each order, raising marginal costs above those associated with direct orders. Because this request was made so late in 2007 that failure to cooperate would have caused many libraries to miss issues, the Association hired additional staff in December 2007 to prepare EBSCO's invoices. A decision will be made in 2008 whether to continue to accept orders through EBSCO or to ask current EBSCO customers either to find a different agent, order direct, or discontinue their subscription.

The Association has begun in 2008 to accept site-license-only subscriptions (absent an accompanying print or CD subscription) for \$625; site-license-only orders are not accepted through agents. A site license accompanying a print subscription is \$750 for 2008. A print or CD subscription (absent a site license) is \$375 for 2008. How the site-license-only subscriptions affect revenue depends on the number of

current print plus site license subscribers who drop their print subscription (costing \$125 each) versus the number of current print or CDs only subscribers who “upgrade” to a site-license-only (adding \$250 each).

The Association will discontinue offering CDs to institutional subscribers in 2009. This will allow us to fold foreign postage directly into the price charged to foreign subscribers, eliminating some confusion in orders. Subscribers then may elect just print, no print (site-license only), or print plus a site license. Only 24 subscribers take CDs alone. CDs of the *AER*, *JEL*, and *JEP* will continue to be available to individual members. The *AEJs* will not be available on CDs.

Siegfried announced that after 7 years with the Association, the Administrative Director, Edda Leithner, is retiring. Siegfried introduced Regina Montgomery, her successor. The Executive Committee then approved the following resolution:

Edda R. Leithner served as the Association’s Administrative Director since June 2001. She will retire in February 2008. Throughout this time, Edda conscientiously managed the Association’s Nashville office, diligently assisted the Executive Committee, arranged for the Association’s journals to be printed and distributed reliably, and accurately maintained the Association’s records. The Association’s members have been fortunate to enjoy her loyal service for the last seven years.

Siegfried suggested that the Executive Committee begin to consider how it wanted to transition to a subsequent administrative officer when he retires. The president was asked to appoint a committee to consider the question and report to the Executive Committee in April.

Siegfried announced that the first meeting of the 2008 Executive Committee would be on Sunday, April 27, 2008, in Chicago, IL.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend a New Editor for the Journal of Economic Perspectives (Blank). Blank described the process the committee used to identify a successor to Andrei Shleifer as Editor of the *JEP* in January 2009. Details are available in the Committee report published elsewhere in this volume. After considerable discussion, it was

VOTED to appoint David Autor as Editor of the *JEP* for a three-year term ending in December 2011.

Renewal of Appointment of the Association’s General Counsel (Siegfried). Following Siegfried’s recommendation and a description of the General Counsel’s role, it was VOTED to re-appoint Terry Calvani to a three-year term as General Counsel ending in December 2010.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Review (Moffitt). Moffitt commented on his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He noted that annual submissions have leveled off at about 1,300, and the acceptance rate is 8 to 9 percent. Summary rejections (without a referee review) constituted 13 percent of submissions in 2006 and 22 percent of submissions in 2007. The submission fee is refunded to authors receiving a summary rejection. Fifty-nine papers published in 2007 were subject to the *AER*’s data posting policy. Of these, 52 complied and seven were granted an exemption.

Moffitt thanked Managing Editor Jane Voros, and recognized the tireless contributions of Steve Stelling in facilitating the transition from Editorial Express to Manuscript Central as the *AER*’s manuscript management system. He thanked John Rust for providing Editorial Express to the Association for many years. Moffitt announced that after 18 years as Editor of the *Papers and Proceedings* volume of the *AER*, Ronald Oaxaca has retired. His successor is William R. Johnson.

There followed a discussion of the wisdom of individual economists serving on the Board of Editors of more than one Association journal. It was decided that normally individuals should serve on the Board of Editors of no more than one Association journal. Moffitt announced that the *AER* would move to a one-column format in March 2008. Noting that the *AER* would complete 100 years of publication in December 2010, Moffitt invited suggestions about how the *Review* appropriately might recognize this achievement.

Following Moffitt’s recommendation, it was VOTED to appoint Mark Gertler to a second three-year term as co-editor ending in December 2010. It was also VOTED to re-appoint Janice Eberly to a three-year term on the Board of Editors ending in March 2010, to re-appoint Simon Gilchrist to a three-year term on the

Board of Editors ending in December 2010, and to appoint Dora Costa, Miguel Costa-Gomes, Hanming Fang, David Green, Botond Kőszegi, Rohini Pande, Nina Pavcnik, and Christopher Timmins to three-year terms on the Board of Editors ending in December 2010.

Report of the Editor of the Journal of Economic Literature (Gordon). Gordon reviewed his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He thanked Mary Kay Akerman for her conscientious service as Managing Editor. Gordon announced that *EconLit for Members* is operational, and executing about five thousand search inquiries per month. It is available free to all Association members. Its search engine includes a feature that facilitates the identification of relevant literature through subgroups based on shared terms that is not available on the search engines of the vendors that offer *EconLit* through institutions.

Acting on Gordon's recommendation, it was VOTED to re-appoint James Levinsohn to a three-year term as Associate Editor ending December 2010, to re-appoint Colin Camerer, Michael Greenstone, Benjamin Hermalin, Chang-Tai Hsieh, and Paul Gompers to the Board of Editors for three-year terms ending in December 2010, and to appoint Paul Beaudry, Ilya Segal, and John van Reenen to the Board of Editors for three-year terms ending in December 2010.

Report of the Editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives (Shleifer). Shleifer referred to his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He noted that Associate Editors are responsible for organizing the Journal's symposia. Acting on Shleifer's recommendation, the Executive Committee VOTED to appoint Christopher Avery, Gita Gopinath, Pete Klenow, and Gilbert Metcalf as Associate Editors to three-year terms ending in December 2010.

General Discussion of American Economic Journals (Siegfried). Siegfried sought advice in case any of the *American Economic Journals* are not ready to publish four issues in 2009. A quarterly publication must produce four issues in its first year in order to qualify for low postal rates. A discussion of options led to the conclusion that it is important for the *AEJs* to appear in 2009, even if they do not qualify for the lowest postal rates.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (Duflo).

Duflo referred to her written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. *AEJ: Applied Economics* publishes articles covering a range of topics in applied economics, with a focus on empirical microeconomic issues. In particular it covers labor economics and empirical corporate finance; demography; development microeconomics; and health, education, and welfare economics. Duflo reported that the *AEJ: Applied Economics* had received over 100 submissions. Three articles have been accepted and 18 others are in the revise and resubmit stage. The *Journal* has attracted many submissions from younger economists and has experienced conscientious and quick reviews.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (Auerbach). Auerbach referred to his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. The common theme in articles published by *AEJ: Economic Policy* is the role of economic policy in economic outcomes. Subject areas include public economics; urban and regional economics; public policy aspects of health, education, and welfare and political institutions; law and economics; economic regulation; and environmental and natural resource economics. Auerbach noted that of the first 78 submissions to *AEJ: Economic Policy*, 20 were from overseas. Acting on the Editor's recommendation, the Executive Committee VOTED to appoint Christopher Knittel to a three-year term on the Board of Editors ending in December 2010.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics (Blanchard). Blanchard referred to his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. *AEJ: Macroeconomics* focuses on studies of aggregate fluctuations and growth, and the role of policy in that context. Such studies often borrow from and interact with research in other fields, such as monetary theory, industrial organization, finance, labor economics, political economy, public finance, international economics, and development economics. To the extent that they make a contribution to macroeconomics, papers in these related fields are also welcome. Blanchard reported the *AEJ: Macroeconomics* had about 16 good papers in the pipeline by the end of 2007.

Report of the Editor of the American Economic Journal: Microeconomics (Postlewaite). Postlewaite referred to his written report,

published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. *AEJ: Microeconomics* publishes papers focusing on microeconomic theory, industrial organization, and the microeconomic aspects of international trade, political economy, and finance. It publishes theoretical work as well as both empirical and experimental work with a theoretical framework. Postlewaite reported that *AEJ: Microeconomics* had about a dozen papers in the pipeline by the end of 2007 that are likely to be published.

Report of the Director of Job Openings for Economists (Siegfried). Siegfried reviewed his written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. He reported that new jobs listed in *JOE* increased by 10 percent from 2006 to 2007. Academic employers accounted for 68 percent of job listings. He announced that after four years of remaining constant, the basic *JOE* listing fee would increase from \$250 to \$300 in July 2008, and that the *JOE* Web site and infrastructure were remodeled in October 2007, increasing search and sort capabilities, and linking *JOE* to the Association's December job signaling and March job scramble.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Papers and Proceedings (Lucas). Lucas explained that the Committee (Lucas, chair, Martin Feldstein and George Akerlof, members) was asked to review the *Papers and Proceedings* volume of the *AER*. Following the Committee's recommendation, it was VOTED to ask the President-elect annually to provide a written statement in the Call for Papers of the policies he or she would use in selecting the sessions for the meeting he or she organizes, and in selecting the sessions from that meeting that will be published in the *P and P*. It also was VOTED that the Executive Committee would decide which standing sessions would be included in the *P and P*, and set a fixed, renewable term for the inclusion of standing sessions not to exceed five years. The president was asked to appoint a subcommittee to recommend standing sessions to include in the *P and P* for the next five years.

Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (Lynch). Lynch referred to her written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. She emphasized the rigor with which CSWEP organizes sessions and selects papers for publication in the *Papers and Proceedings* and cautioned that a reduction in the number of CSWEP-vetted

papers published in the *Papers and Proceedings* would hinder the Association's efforts to increase the visibility of women and junior economists. Lynch summarized major findings from the 2007 CSWEP survey of PhD, non-doctoral programs, and business schools and recommended that the AEA consider tracking faculty in business and professional schools along with job market flows into the private and public sector more closely. She concluded with an update on the joint CSWEP and CSMGEP summer fellows program and the NSF-sponsored CeMent mentoring workshops.

Report of the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (Collins for Rouse). Collins reported for Rouse, who could not attend. She referred to CSMGEP's written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. She announced that the Committee has initiated a new Web site and started a newsletter in conjunction with the National Economic Association (NEA) and the American Society for Hispanic Economists. CSMGEP's primary activities are to sponsor the Summer Program, which has moved from Duke University to the University of California-Santa Barbara, and a Mentorship Program for PhD students and new faculty. Greg Price described the NEA and its work with CSMGEP. Charles Becker thanked the Executive Committee for the opportunity to direct the Summer Program for seven years.

Report of the Committee on Economic Statistics (Abraham). Abraham commented on her written report, published elsewhere in this issue of the *AER*. She reported that the Committee had organized three sessions for the annual meeting, and had commissioned reviews of data needs in public finance and international trade. She expressed the Committee's concern about adequate funding for federal statistical agencies.

The 2008 Program (Dixit). Dixit thanked his Program Committee for their help in organizing the program. The members of the Committee are identified in the Program.

The 2009 Program (Deaton). Deaton announced that he had appointed a Program Committee of 16 economists, that David Card agreed to deliver the 2009 Ely Lecture, and that Kenneth Rogoff would deliver the Joint AEA/AFA Luncheon address in 2009.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Association's Advocacy Role (Rogoff). Rogoff reported that the Committee (Rogoff, chair; Katharine Abraham,

Gary Stern, John Taylor, and Sidney Winter) had mixed views on the wisdom of increasing the Association's role as an advocate for economics research. He noted that the share of economics funding within the National Science Foundation had declined from about 1 percent in 1980 to about 0.4 percent in 2007. The Association currently advocates for economics research funding through its membership in the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). The Committee suggested that the Association might focus on improving the provision of economic statistics, provide a link on its Web site to the COSSA Web site, and add an annual session to the meetings aimed at explaining the value of economics research. After an extended discussion of whether the Association should expand its advocacy for economics research and if and how that might conflict with the Association's charter, it was VOTED to ask the Secretary-Treasurer to explore further the opportunities and costs of increased Association representation in Washington, DC, for the purpose of communicating the value of economics research and its supporting infrastructure.

The Association's Representative to the International Economic Association (Eaton). Eaton described the International Economic Association. It is an association of about 60 economics organizations; it has no individual members. It was established shortly after World War II. Its primary activity is a congress held tri-annually, the next scheduled for 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey. He suggested that the Association provide a link from its Web site to the IEA Web site.

Report of the Treasurer (Siegfried). Siegfried reported the projected financial results for 2007 (based on nine months actual plus estimated fourth quarter results) show a \$640 thousand surplus. He presented the proposed 2008 budget, which is in Table 1 accompanying the Treasurer's report published in this issue of the

AER. It projects an operating surplus of \$481 thousand. Following a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee, it was VOTED to approve the 2008 budget.

It was VOTED that "Regina Montgomery, Administrative Director of the American Economic Association, shall be added as an authorized signer on all bank accounts of the American Economic Association held at SunTrust Bank, and that Edda Leithner, former Administrative Director, shall be removed from the authorized signers of all bank accounts of the American Economic Association held at SunTrust Bank."

Net unrestricted assets on September 30, 2007, were \$17.9 million, or 2.3 times gross budgeted expenditures (including ASSA) for 2008. The Association's target ratio of unrestricted assets to gross expenditures established by the Executive Committee is 2.0. Expenditures are expected to accelerate in 2008 and 2009 with publication of the *American Economic Journals*.

New Business. John Chipman inquired about the Association's interest in reviving a long dormant project initiated in the early 1970s and sponsored by the Association, to translate Pareto's *Manual of Political Economy* and *Collected Papers on Mathematical and Quantitative Economics*. Because the Association has not sponsored books or translations for over 30 years, it was decided to re-assign all publication rights to Professor Chipman, and to decline further Association sponsorship of the project. In spite of its reluctance to participate further, the Executive Committee expressed enthusiasm for the project, recognized its valuable contribution, and encouraged Professor Chipman to pursue publication independently of the Association.

There being no further business to conduct, it was VOTED to adjourn at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN J. SIEGFRIED, *Secretary*