

American Accounting Association
Artificial Intelligence/Emerging Technologies Section
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
Conference Room 4M, Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL
August 6, 2007

Opening:

The Annual Business Meeting of the Artificial Intelligence/Emerging Technologies Section was called to order at 2:15 p.m. on August 6, 2007 in Conference Room 4M of the Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL by President Severin Grabski.

Present:

President Grabski and 32 members of the Section were present.

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held on August 7, 2006, Washington, DC were distributed by Guido Geerts, Secretary/Treasurer.

Moved: President Grabski made a motion that the minutes of the 2006 Annual Business Meeting as distributed be adopted.

Seconded: Guido Geerts

Peter Gillett asked for a correction to the minutes regarding discussion of single transferable voting.

Carried: Adopted unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Guido Geerts presented the Treasurer's report. He noted that the data he received from the AAA Office was to June 2007. As of June 30, 2007 the Section's total inflows were \$4,116.63 and total outflows were \$11,156.77, giving a net outflow of \$7,040.14 (which leaves a balance of \$37,327.81). Guido pointed out that the section's relatively new journal, the *Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting* (JETA), has significant cash outflows associated with it. Guido also said that the AI/ET workshop revenue will post at a later date.

A general discussion of finances followed. Roger Debreceeny discussed the fixed cost associated with printing a hard copy of JETA. Peter Gillett asked how many hard copies of JETA were printed. Sev Grabski said that Miklos Vasarhelyi (not present at the meeting) would be able to provide information. Sev also pointed out that people already pay extra for the hard copy. Carol Brown said that we cannot discount the credibility associated with a hard copy journal. No other financial issues were raised.

Moved: Guido Geerts made a motion that the treasurer's report be adopted.

Seconded: Greg Gerard

Carried: Adopted unanimously.

C. Report on 2007 Mid-Year Meeting

Greg Gerard reported on the 2007 Mid-Year Meeting. The manuscript co-coordinators were Greg Gerard and Ingrid Fisher. A number of quality papers were submitted to the meeting and five papers were selected for two concurrent sessions. Greg emphasized the importance of submitting papers to the mid-year meeting. Ingrid Fisher and Allan Graham were recognized as the manuscript co-coordinators for the 2008 Mid-Year Meeting. Ingrid made a call for papers and suggested that the authors of the AI/ET workshop papers submit their work to the 2008 meeting.

D. Awards

The following Section awards were presented for 2006/2007:

Dan O'Leary presented the Outstanding Researcher award to Bill McCarthy, Michigan State University. Dan also presented the Outstanding Educator award to Carol Brown, Oregon State University. Peggy Garnsey presented the Outstanding Dissertation award to Jia Wu, Ph.D. from Rutgers University, currently at University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

E. Committee Reports

Education:

Greg Gerard reported on the committee's activities to update the web site with syllabi and other internet resources. The committee has taken the first step to get the site going, but it still needs more contributions from the membership. Members were encouraged to share and contribute.

Membership:

Ram Sriram reported on efforts to contact ex-members to understand why they did not renew their section membership. Some people forgot, etc. Andy Lymer suggested that the Section has to do a better job selling its value proposition and that we have to reach out to other sections in the AAA as well as other organization interested in AI/ET. Andy stressed that the web site is one way to add value to the membership so we have to make every effort to keep the site updated and current.

Research:

Saeed Roohani, chair of the committee, was not in attendance; no report was given.

Publications:

Stewart Leech thanked Miklos Vasarhelyi for all of his work in establishing JETA, the section journal, and for serving as its first editor. Stewart then explained the editorial transition that will occur when Dan O'Leary takes over as new editor. Stewart indicated that Miklos would continue as editor until March 31, 2008, and Dan would take over on April 1, 2008 for a three year term. Stewart also said that the editor reports to the Publications Committee twice a year.

Sections:

Sev Grabski reported on the sections and said that some sections, such as the Northeast region, have very strong participation while other sections do not. Sev asked Ingrid Fisher why the Northeast region is so successful. Ingrid said that she made a great effort to e-mail northeast members to keep them informed of section activities. The AAA can send out e-mail “blasts” to specific sections. Sev stressed the importance of marketing the section and related value-adding activities such as the AI/ET workshop.

Workshop:

Carol Brown reported that the 16th Annual Research Workshop on: Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in Accounting, Auditing, and Tax was held on August 4, 2007. Once again it was very successful with 11 paper presentations (4 by Ph.D. students) and 35 participants. There were fewer papers this year, but more discussion. Carol presented Ingrid Fisher with the best paper award for “Facilitating Information Retrieval from the Authoritative Accounting Literature: A Preliminary Consideration of the FASB’s Codification Structure.” Sev Grabski stated that this workshop remains a valuable part of the section.

Annual Meeting:

Andy Lymer reported that the Section had 5 sessions, 3 of which were panels. We need more paper submissions.

Webmaster:

Andy Lymer once again stressed the importance of building up the section web site.

F. JETA Report

Alex Kogan gave the JETA report on behalf of Miklos Vasarhelyi (not present). Volume 4 has been completed and is with AAA staff (volume 4 has eleven papers). Volume 5 is in progress with approximately ten papers at various stages, so the volume looks like it is in good shape for next year. Alex said that Miklos established a tradition of rewarding JETA reviewers for excellence. Alex then presented awards to Ingrid Fisher (University at Albany, State University of New York) and Marietta Peytcheva (Rutgers University).

G. President’s Report

President Grabski thanked all of the officers and committee members for their hard work during the year. He also stressed the importance of improving the financial position of the section. There is no record of a dues increase going back to at least 1998, so the section has gone a long time without a dues increase.

Moved: Sev Grabski made a motion that the AI/ET Section dues increase from \$15 to \$20.

Seconded: Peggy Garnsey

Carried: Adopted unanimously.

Discussion preceding the vote identified important opportunities for increasing cash flow including (1) more section-sponsored Continuing Professional Education (CPE), (2) associate/practitioner memberships, and (3) generally increasing the value of being a section member to attract new members.

H. New Officers

President Sev Grabski presented the following Slate of Officers that had previously been presented to the membership and subject to electronic voting:

President: Rick Dull
President-Elect: Roger Debreceeny
Vice-President: Guido Geerts
Secretary/Treasurer Greg Gerard

I. Election of At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee

President Grabski called for nominations for At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee. The following nominations were received:

- Robert Biscontri (University of Manitoba)
- Kenneth Henry (Florida International University)

Moved: Roger Debreceeny made a motion that nominations be closed.

Seconded: Greg Gerard

Carried: Adopted unanimously.

Robert Biscontri and Kenneth Henry were declared elected.

J. Incoming President Comments

Incoming President Rick Dull thanked Sev for his outstanding service as President and presented an award to recognize his service. Rick spoke about the value of being a section member, highlighting the workshop, JETA, and the collegiality of the community. Rick brought up a concern that the name of the section might not give non-members a clear idea the section's purpose. For example, people tend to be confused when they hear the term "Artificial Intelligence." Rick asked if the membership might want to consider a name change to, for example, "Emerging Technologies." After some discussion, the general consensus was that this was worth considering but it was too soon to vote on a name change.

K. Other New Business

Stewart Leech and Sev Grabski again stressed the importance of submitting papers to the AAA annual meeting as well as the mid-year meeting.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. by Incoming President Rick Dull. The next Annual Business Meeting will be held at a time and date to be advised at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Gregory J. Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer.