

**ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS
MEETING OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

**At the 2014 Annual Conference of the American Accounting Association
Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
Lobby Level, Room 405
Sunday, August 3, 2014 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

The meeting convened at 5:05 PM.

Present: Gary Previts (chairman), Richard Baker, Dale Flesher, Mikhail I. Kuter, Yvette Lazdowski, Yoshinao Matsumoto, Stephanie Moussalli, Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle, Alan Sangster, Massimo Sargiacomo, Gary Spraakman. Guest: Gloria Vollmers, editor, *Accounting Historians Journal*.

1. Roll call, opening remarks, welcome – President Massimo Sargiacomo

Roll was called, trustees welcomed.

Previts remarked that the limited number here this year might change in the future if it's possible to use technology to include trustees not physically present. This would make the trustees' meeting more globally representative.

A quorum was declared.

2. Review of trustee roster and of non-officer trustees – potential service role – Chairman Gary Previts

Currently, there are 20 trustees (including both non-officer and officer trustees), the maximum allowed in the bylaws. Oktay Guvemli has rotated off, but is interested in serving again in the future.

Discussion will take place in coming months concerning ways in which non-officer trustees may play a larger role in service to the Academy.

3. Review of governance activities – recent past and future issues related thereto – Chairman Gary Previts

There is good global coverage in the trustee membership. It may be that the Academy is now sufficiently global, given the limits of geography and languages.

The Academy's articles of incorporation state that it is international, a requirement met at least by continued sponsorship of the World Congress. In 2016, the World Congress will meet in Italy. In 2020, it will meet in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Other countries have created their own accounting historians' professional groups, including Australia and New Zealand, Great Britain, Italy, and Japan. This alleviates some of the pressure on the Academy to be extremely global, compared to the earlier years when it was the only accounting historians' professional organization in the world.

4. Review of Officer and Trustee slate of nominees

The Secretary read the slate of nominees (appended). By voice vote, the trustees unanimously approved the slate.

Seven trustee positions rotate next year, one of which is held for the outgoing president, Massimo Sargiacomo.

5. *Journal and Notebook* operations - Chairman Gary Previts, Editor Gloria Vollmers, and others

A. Publication options for the *Accounting Historians Journal*

Membership in the Academy continues to decline slowly. There are currently 415 members in total, a 1% decline since last year's 418. The biggest loss is in institutional members in the United States, down to 117 from last year's 143. This is expected to continue as institutions purchase databases that include the *AHJ*.

The Academy is in the second year of its contract with EBSCO for electronic dissemination of the *AHJ*. Quarterly payments from EBSCO total annually about \$7,500. This offsets some of the loss from institutional membership decline.

Treasurer's summary of Academy's financial position – Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle. Last year was good, primarily because the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh did not charge the Academy for the expenses of our meeting there, but did give us the revenues. Otherwise, operations would have produced a loss.

Reynolds-Moehrle expects this year the Academy's operations will be just under break-even. The administration of the awards, including shipping of plaques, is expensive. Our annual revenues are about \$40,000.

Previts pointed out that the recent publication of the update of the Academy's history demonstrated that the past was better in revenues. Today, however, the flow of new young members has not increased.

Previous Academy presidents Steve Walker and Greg Waymire surveyed the membership about how to improve the long-run situation. About one-third of the members favor becoming a section of the American Accounting Association, about one-third oppose that option, and a third prefer that there be no change.

Previts reported that he is thinking of another option. Under President Hiroshi Okano, the Academy negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the AAA in 2008. This MOU could be expanded. The Executive Committee has been discussing the importance of keeping the *AHJ* viable and improving it. SCOPUS now recognizes the *AHJ*, but we do not have the capacity to generate the statistics, pre-publication access, and other attributes that scholars expect in good journals today. Perhaps, under the MOU, the AAA would consider taking on the publication of the *AHJ* as a contract publisher. This would be a printing arrangement only.

Would such a AAA umbrella for the *AHJ* help? Can we afford it? Our press runs are smaller than those the AAA usually handles. It may help our case that the *AHJ* is already in JSTOR. Both the University of Mississippi and JSTOR publish the *AHJ* electronically but with a rolling embargo.

Not moving on some of these issues could have additional negative results. For

example, the Academy is given free meeting spaces at AAA meetings because of the MOU. We also are given numerous slots for paper sessions. We could lose these privileges in the future, given the intense pressure for space from the AAA sections. In that case, we'd have to find space away from the conference hotels for our papers and meetings.

One thing to consider in proposing a publication relationship with the AAA is that the Academy is a 501c3 tax-exempt entity under U.S. law, incorporated in the state of Alabama, which is required to hold its funds in the United States. Thus there is some degree to which the Academy must be U.S.-centric.

Sangster inquired if the AAA would put the journal up on its website. Answer: Production and distribution would be handled through the AAA, as opposed to our current arrangement, in which we pay a distribution supervisor who is located at the University of Alabama.

Sangster pointed out that previous experience suggests the AAA is very expensive, and inquired about the possibility of approaching Routledge, Sage, Emerald, or Elsevier. Previts agreed that having a publisher in Birmingham has been cheaper, so we've worked with them in the past. However, the commercial publishers are even more expensive than the AAA. Sargiacomo noted that when the Italian *Journal of Management and Governance* approached a commercial publisher, the publisher wanted immediately to increase publication to four times a year and charge a large subscription fee.

Sargiacomo agreed it would be a good idea to approach the AAA about the *AHJ*. Academy membership is 40% non-U.S., but it is acceptable that the *AHJ* continue with a U.S. focus, as its roots are in the U.S. The *AHJ* needs to be re-positioned. It needs to be online and its electronic files need to go to SCOPUS so citations can be counted and publicized. Other accounting history journals have begun experiencing wider citations because of SCOPUS.

Flesher, speaking as an officer of the AAA, suggested this should happen sooner rather than later, because currently Steve Reynolds and Tim Fogarty are on the AAA Council. Both are well-disposed to the Academy. Also, Tracy Southerland just recently commented that one of the AAA's strengths is the broad coverage of its journals. In fact, Flesher favors the Academy pursuing membership in the AAA as a section. Moussalli pointed out the advantages of doing so for the 2016 centennial celebrations of the AAA.

Spraakman observed that both Flesher and Previts seem to favor AAA section status.

Previts preferred to hold discussion of AAA section status for later in the meeting, after addressing the more limited publication issue. He noted another possible negative consequence of not changing things is that if Tiffany Welch, the Academy administrator, were to leave, the Academy would be in serious trouble. Moussalli could pick up some of her duties, but not all. AAA publication of the *AHJ* would add a great deal of professionalism to the journal. While it would be more a win for the Academy than for the AAA, the AAA would acquire a new area of publication and a historical component. We must pursue the MOU as a route to the publication possibility.

Previts asked if the trustees would approve of the AAA's publishing the *AHJ* if it proved affordable.

Sangster noted that *Accounting History* has different levels of membership and one may receive the journal in hard copy or electronically. Previts thought we might not, under current arrangements, have the ability to distribute the journal electronically. Sangster thought the *AHJ* proposal makes sense. With the AAA facilitating electronic access, maybe the Academy could attract new members with lower membership fees.

Previts said that if we are to explore this possibility, the officers will need to find out what the costs would be and the contract period.

Vollmers explained that as editor of the *AHJ*, it has been a problem that she is the intermediary on everything. Also, the front matter has not always been correct. She wondered if it is within the editor's prerogative to remove people from the editorial board who do not contribute anything. Previts said yes; Sargiacomo said the editor must replace them.

Baker asked if we were to arrange a publication deal with the AAA, would it include copy-editing? Previts was unsure, but said both he and Flesher think it would.

Vollmers also brought up a timing issue. The publisher prefers to receive all the papers for an issue in one batch. This means they arrive at the last minute, giving the authors very little time to review the galleys and leaving no time for last-minute checks of the front matter.

Previts asked if the trustees would approve pursuing the possibility of having the AAA publish the *AHJ*.

The trustees unanimously said yes.

B. Question of AAA section status for the Academy

Flesher said he favors it. Baker said he favors it, too. He asked how many members the Academy could expect to lose as a result and whether one could join a section without joining the AAA. Previts said no, only AAA members could join a section.

Flesher asked how many members the Academy could expect to gain from AAA members checking the Academy section membership box.

Sargiacomo and Reynolds-Moehrle also agreed it is a good idea and that membership would rise due to the AAA association, its reputation, and the convenience of the check-off. Previts noted that 25% of the AAA membership itself is international.

Reynolds-Moehrle noted the Academy is now giving awards to people under 35 years old. Stephan Fafatas, who won the Innovation in Accounting History Education award this year, stumbled on the organization. If the Academy were a AAA section, it would have much more visibility and there would be more such new members.

Previts asked what reasonable steps could be pursued and pointed out that joining the AAA would mean dissolving the 501c3 entity. Baker suggested this might require legal advice.

Sargiacomo argued that if we decide to do it, it should be done now. He would organize a vote or handle the organizational steps necessary to do it, and this might be more acceptable to some members as he himself is not a U.S. member. Baker asked if the

president could just do this without a vote and Previts said by-laws provide the president broad powers.

Reynolds-Moehrle asked if section membership would elevate the *AHJ* in journal rankings. Sargiacomo said it certainly would, especially in SCOPUS rankings. Furthermore, the SCImago impact factor has moved *Accounting History* and *Accounting History Review* into the second quartile because of SCOPUS [SCImago's rankings are based on the SCOPUS database]. This is a very important advantage of AAA section status.

Previts noted that Bruce Behn will be AAA president in 2016, the anniversary year. He has a positive collegial relationship with Sargiacomo.

Previts moved that the president of the Academy is supported by the trustees in pursuing what he feels are appropriate steps to seek AAA section status for the Academy of Accounting Historians. Seconded by Flesher. The secretary conducted a roll call vote. All trustees present voted "aye" and Previts exercised the proxy he held for Peter Wolnizer to vote "aye" for him. There were no "nay" votes.

6. *AHJ* editing – Editor Gloria Vollmers

29 articles have been submitted since July of 2013. Three are under first review, one was withdrawn, nine are under revision or second review, and ten have been accepted. Six have been rejected.

Book reviews and the "Salmagundi" or "Interactions" section of the *Journal* is intended to include responses to articles, reactions to something in the press, items published elsewhere that she could apply for permission to reprint, or commentary on current topics. This section would be editorially reviewed. Previts suggested she write an editorial describing what she wants.

Reynolds-Moehrle asked if the Salmagundi section could appear on the open website. Tiffany Welch may be able to tell Gloria how to do that.

Previts noted that some members and libraries require hard copies of the *AHJ* and *AHN*. Reynolds-Moehrle said that publishing and mailing the *AHN* costs about \$1,000 per issue.

7. Other items

A. World Congress of Accounting Historians, 2020, St. Petersburg, Russia.
Mikhail Kuter announced that the rector of his university has approved this conference. At the 2016 WCAH in Pescara, Kuter will have a presentation on the plans. The Academy secretary has received the documentation for the approval in the form of a June, 2013 email from Vyacheslav Sokolov in Russia, with an attached commitment letter from Dr. Igor Maksimtsev, the Rector of the St. Petersburg State University of Economics.

B. World Congress of Accounting Historians, 2016, Pescara, Italy.
Massimo Sargiacomo noted that today, the temperature in Pescara is 35° Celsius. Seafood is a regional specialty and the conference hotels and meetings will be on the beach. The dates are June 25-27, 2016. This is Saturday through Monday. He is not sure if it will also be convenient to have Friday cocktails or a doctoral colloquium. If the

Academy will support the WCAH monetarily, he will use the money as an award for the best doctoral student paper. He suggested about \$2,000. Previts proposed that the group approve the continuation of supporting the WCAH with \$2,000. The trustees approved without objections.

C. Academy assistant contracts

Previts said that Tiffany Welch's second 3-year term ends in June of 2015. If we become a AAA section, she could fear the position would be reduced or changed. There is also Becca Hayes, the Academy's distribution supervisor for the *AHJ* at University of Alabama. Previts feels ending their terms in June of 2015 is too abrupt; there will need to be help during a transition period, at least from Welch. He proposed that the trustees extend her contract now; she has agreed to that possibility. In particular, since AAA sections keep their websites through volunteer help, she will be needed for that role. The trustees approved of the extension of Welch's contract. Previts said the Executive Committee would discuss the question of extending Hayes' contract.

D. Photographs

Lazdowski took a group picture of the trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Moussalli, Secretary

Academy of Accounting Historians: 2015 Officers & Trustees Ballot

OFFICERS

In accordance with by-laws and practice, terms of elected officers are one year and may be renewed. Recent policy directs that the Presidential term may be two consecutive years.

President

Massimo Sargiacomo (*University G.d'Annunzio of Pescara, Italy*)

President-Elect

Robert Colson (*Baruch College CUNY, retired from Grant Thornton*)

Vice President – Communications

Yvette Lazdowski (*Plymouth State University*)

Vice President – Partnerships

Gary Spraakman (*York University*)

Secretary

Stephanie Moussalli-Kurtz (*University of Mississippi, Visiting Scholar*)

Treasurer

Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle (*University of Missouri-St. Louis*)

TRUSTEES - NOMINATED

Daoyang Guo (<i>Zhongnan University of Economics & Law</i>)	2015-2017
Mikhail Kuter (<i>Kuban State University</i>)	2015-2017
Yoshinao Matsumoto (<i>Kansai University</i>)	2015-2017
James McKinney (<i>University of Maryland</i>)	2015-2017
Tomo Suzuki (<i>University of Oxford</i>)	2015-2017

TRUSTEES - CONTINUING

C. Richard Baker (<i>Adelphi University</i>)	2014-2016
*Joann Noe Cross (<i>University of Wisconsin Oshkosh</i>)	2014-2016
Dale Flesher (<i>University of Mississippi</i>)	2013-2015
Cheryl McWatters (<i>University of Ottawa</i>)	2013-2015
David Oldroyd (<i>Durham University</i>)	2013-2015
Gary J. Previts (<i>Case Western Reserve University</i>)	2013-2015
Lúcia Lima Rodrigues (<i>University of Minho</i>)	2013-2015
Alan Sangster (<i>Griffith University</i>)	2013-2015
Peter Wolnizer (<i>University of Sydney, Emeritus</i>)	2013-2015
Mary S. Stone (<i>The University of Alabama</i>)	Corporate Agent

*By virtue of office, automatically enters a three-year term as Trustee.