

FARS Business Meeting

Monday, August 8, 2016

Welcome: Brian Bushee, section President, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Approval of the 2015 meeting minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously.

Section Updates: Brian Bushee

- *Journal of Financial Reporting (JFR)*
 - The first issue is out, but submissions are lower than expected.
 - There will be a *JFR* Mini-conference at the Midyear Meeting the next three years (at a minimum) to encourage submissions.
 - There will be a special *JFR* conference on Financial Accounting Standard Setting, March 2017, in Philadelphia. The conference is sponsored by the Wharton Public Policy Institute. The *JFR* will publish a special issue based on this conference.
- Midyear Meeting
 - Due to the HB2 controversy in North Carolina, the officers had discussed moving the Midyear Meeting from Charlotte.
 - There was a \$51,000 cancellation penalty, which would be the amount of the penalty if the meeting stayed in Charlotte and had less than 60% attendance.
 - The AAA and FARS Board decided to stay in Charlotte and emailed the membership to explain the decision.
 - A member from a North Carolina school spoke in favor of the decision to stay in Charlotte.
- New Awards
 - The Section added three new awards during the year: Excellence in Reviewing, Innovation in Financial Accounting Education, and Distinguished PhD Mentoring
- New Officers and Steering Board Members
 - The new President-Elect is Lisa Koonce
 - The new Steering Board Members are Nicole Jenkins, Nick Seybert, and Sarah Zechman. They will be replacing Mark Kohlbeck, Marilyn Johnson, and Lisa Koonce.

Council Representative Report: Brian Bushee (on behalf of Marlene Plumlee)

- The FARS Council Representative, Marlene Plumlee, was unable to attend. Brian Bushee attended the Council meeting in her place
- The Council announced that the AAA had the first membership increase in five years. The Sections also got a boost in membership as a result
- There were no new initiatives that directly affected FARS.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Bushee (on behalf of Eddie Riedl)

- The Secretary/Treasurer, Eddie Riedl, was unable to attend. He prepared a presentation that was delivered by Brian Bushee
- Section Membership was up 16%, with increases in both faculty and student members
- Submissions to the Newport Beach Midyear Meeting were up 15% and registrations were up 4%. Both reached record highs.

- Revenues were reported to be up 30%, but that included a 2015 hotel commission that did not get recorded until 2016. Adjusting for this item, revenue was up 14%, largely due to the increase in membership.
- Expenses increased by 32%, largely due to a substantial increase in food and beverage expenses for the meetings. This trend will continue because the Section is subsidizing the Annual Meeting lunch cost by about \$35,000. The AAA-negotiated lunch price was \$122. In order to encourage attendance, the Section only charged members \$50.
- Expenses will also increase due to the *JFR*. The AAA was unable to provide the cost of the first issue, other than to say that the Section is charged \$37 per page for variable overhead, plus printing and shipping costs.
- The Cash Balance is \$344,210, which is down 1% from last year

Proposal to Increase Section Dues: Brian Bushee

- The Section dues are \$20, which is the same amount that they have been since 1993. Using the CPI calculator, \$20 in 1993 dollars is equivalent to \$34 today.
- Other large Sections charge higher dues; e.g., Auditing (\$50), ATA (\$35), IAS (\$35), MAS (\$35), ABO (\$25)
- The Section dues provide a free print and on-line subscription to *JFR*, a \$35 discount for registration to the Midyear Meeting, and a \$25 discount for *JFR* subscriptions. Thus, for the 400+ members that attend the Midyear Meeting, the Section essentially collects negative dues. Dues help fund scholarships for Midyear Meetings attendance, pay for award plaques, and subsidize the high cost of meetings. Going forward, they will also help cover *JFR* expenses.
- The FARS Executive Committee proposed raising regular member dues from \$20 to \$40. Student member dues would remain at \$6.
- In discussing the proposal, one long-time member noted that the Section used to do very little, so it made sense to have low dues. But now that the Section is doing so much more, it makes sense to raise them. Another member questioned why the dues were not raised to \$50.
- The members present voted unanimously to accept the proposal to raise the dues to \$40 for regular members.

Nomination of members of the Nominations Committee: Brian Bushee

- Nominations for the Nominations Committee were solicited from the floor.
- The following members were nominated
 - Laurel Franzen
 - Rebecca Hann
 - Greg Miller
 - Bjorn Jorgensen
- The members present voted in favor of this slate of nominees.

Transfer of the Presidency: Brian Bushee transferred the presidency to Mark Bradshaw.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.