

## **Minutes: AOC Board Teleconference**

Friday, September 2, 2005

The AOC Board teleconference was held on Friday, September 2, 2005. AOC President Ruihong Zhang called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM PST.

There were 11 members in attendance and they were (alphabetically): Shufeng Han, Yanbin Li, Zhongli Pan, Roger Ruan, Jimmy Tang, Donghai Wang, Shaojin Wang, Joan Wu, Chenghai Yang, Naiqian Zhang, Ruihong Zhang.

Decision was made collectively to keep the previous Board meeting schedule, i.e., the meeting is to be held regularly, at 1 PM PST on the first Friday of every odd month starting September, 2005. The next meeting is therefore on November 4, 2005.

Next, the Business Meeting minutes of year 2005 were approved after a brief discussion.

Naiqian Zhang proposed constitution changes with respect to the AOC Webmaster. He suggested that the Webmaster should be added to the Board to help improve the work efficiency. AOC Webmaster often needs to update the AOC Website upon changes initiated and with information provided by the Board. Hence, it is the most efficient for the Webmaster to be on the Board and directly involved in the Board meetings. It was further suggested by other Board members that the name of Webmaster should be changed to Web Manager. The motion was approved.

Appointment of vacant Board member positions were made.

- AOC Board Secretary: Joan Wu (one year)
- North/South America Regional Director: Jun Zhu
- Chair, Meetings and Conference: Xiusheng Yang
- Chair, Nomination and Constitution: Jimmy Tang
- Chair, Membership Development: Chenghai Yang
- Chair, Professional Development and Awards: Naiqian Zhang
- Student Activity: Changying Li
- Chair, Fund Raising: Shufeng Han (who also serves as Associate Director of AOC Foundation)
- Director, AOC Foundation, Yanbin Li

Suggestions were made for the Board to contact Dawei Sun (or Sunda Wei?) who may serve as the Euro-AGEN Liaison.

Discussion was then switched to the establishment of technology cooperation between AOC and China as well as the relevant documentation and database development. Zhongli Pan explained to the Board that improvement has been made to the database that is now in both Chinese and English. Such a database is meant to be a vehicle providing information on the technical expertise of individual AOC members to various Chinese organizations, thus enhancing agricultural, food, and biological technology development through collaboration between AOC members and Chinese governmental and local agencies, enterprises, and other entities.

Agreement was reached that a position of Director of Technology Cooperation Development should be established and Zhongli Pan was elected as the first Director of this program. Additionally, it was collectively agreed that the Director of Technology Cooperation Development should be included as a Board member. Owing to this new responsibility, Zhongli Pan is to resign from the AOC Treasurer position, which will be taken over by Donghai Wang, effective immediately after the Board meeting.

The Board next discussed several issues related to membership development and fees.

- US, Canada AOC member lists are relatively complete. Lists of members in other countries are not as complete.
- It was not clear how the membership fees were spent by the Chinese branch. Shaojin Wang was asked to contact Baoji Wang to clarify the usage and current balance of the Chinese membership fee account.
- Is it necessary for students to pay membership fees? Naiqian Zhang proposed to change the Bylaw to waive student membership fees. However, not all agreed; some citing that most professional societies in the US charges membership fees, though the amount may be rather low for students. After a lengthy discussion, the attendees approved the policy that a life-time fee of \$5 for students is to be collected. AOC Membership Committee is to send an electronic mail to students for them to confirm or claim change of their student member status at the beginning of each year.

Discussion also arose regarding scientific publications.

- A web-based, peer-reviewed technical journal is favored by the Chinese side.
- E-journal is also the preferred form by CSAE and AOC Board.
- This issue should be revisited at the next Board meeting

Last, Shaojin introduced the major contents of the current issue of IMPACT for discussion.

- Prof. Xiuzhi Sun is to be featured in this issue.
- Members are encouraged to send in short news.
- New faculty members should be announced in the newsletter.
- News on faculty promotion and other achievements are sought for.

The contents of the current issue of IMPACT were approved.

With no other new business, the AOC Board teleconference was adjourned at 2:33 PM PST by President Ruihong Zhang.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Wu  
AOC Board Secretary [2005–2006]