

CANADIAN ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION • ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE HELD: Sunday, 4 June 2017

LOCATION: St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS

In attendance:

Angela DiNello, Mike Veall, Werner Antweiler, Niels Anthonisen, Nicolas Schmitt, Denise Young, Gillian Hamilton, Hari Luitel, Ken Stewart, Nancy Gallini, Guy Lacroix, Andrew Sharpe, Mel Cross, Patrick de Lamirande, Francois Picotte, Octave Kelitiben, Ana Dammert, Robert Dimand, Isabelle Amano, Vivian Tran and Frances Woolley.

Chair of Meeting:

Nancy Gallini

The chair determined that the required quorum of at least 15 members was present at the start of the AGM.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Werner Antweiler / Seconded: Nicolas Schmitt

2. Motion to approve minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

Moved: Werner Antweiler / Nicolas Schmitt

3. Report of the President (Nancy Gallini)

- a) **Strategy and Budget Committee Report:** A motion was passed in June 2016 to develop a strategic plan for the CEA and report back at the next AGM in 2017. This was in part prompted by the financial situation reported by the Secretary Treasurer in June 2016. A Strategy and Budget Committee was struck consisting of Nancy Gallini, Werner Antweiler, Robert Dimand, Mel Cross, Francisco Ruge-Murcia, Vicky Zinde-Walsh, and Frances Woolley. Low, Medium, and High-risk budget scenario were analyzed. The Strategy and Budget Committee concluded that the CEA is currently facing a long-term structural deficit of about \$50,000 per year due to taking on financial costs such as financing the conference travel grants, hiring a conference organizer and executive director. The CEA also faces exchange rate risk volatility and uncertainty over future revenues from the CJE's publisher.
- b) **CEA Constitutional Changes:** Since the CEA incorporated in 2015, the Association has to adhere to the rules of the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA). Bylaws are in the process of being revised to make them CNCA-compliant. For the most part, CEA operations will remain the same. The Executive Council will be replaced with a Board of Directors. The

members vote for the sixteen directors, and the officers (ie: President, Vice-President) are appointed by the elected Board of Directors. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will develop a draft of the new Bylaws later in 2017 with a target to have the Bylaws enacted before the next AGM in June 2018.

- c) **Annual Meetings in Antigonish:** The 2017 Conference meetings were very successful due to exceptional organization and very good speakers. The CEA's thanks go to Greg Tkacz, Frances Woolley, Werner Antweiler, Paula Emery and Vivian Tran for their work on putting on a successful conference.
- d) **Personnel Changes on the CEA Executive:** Bob Dimand is stepping down as CEA Secretary-Treasurer at the end of his five-year term and is leaving the CEA on a solid financial footing. As Werner Antweiler has been elected as the new CEA Secretary-Treasurer, Ana Ferrer has been appointed as CEA Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to replace Werner in that position. Charles Beach is stepping down as CEA Past-President, and he was thanked for always being a wise voice on Council. Council members Nicole Fortin, Greg Dow, Evelyn Forget, and Michel Normadin are also stepping down at the end of their three-year terms.
- e) **New Fellows of the CEA:** The CEA is pleased to announce three new CEA Fellows for 2017: Jean-Marie Dufour, Curtis Eaton, and Alice Nakamura
- f) **The Passing of Distinguished Members:** With great sadness, the CEA acknowledges the passing of the following members in 2017: Steve Renzetti (Brock), Samuel Ho (UBC), Jack McLeod (Toronto), Pierre Lasserre (UQAM).
- g) **The 50th Anniversary CJE Edition:** As a celebration of the CEA's 50th anniversary the CJE will publish a special issue. The papers will highlight how the state of economics, economic research, and economic policy have advanced or changed in the discipline over the period and Canadians contribution to this research.
- h) **Canadian Women Economist Committee (CWEC):** On December 6, 2015, the CEA Executive Council, after consulting with the Canadian Women Economists' Network (CWEN), voted to establish a Standing Committee on Women. The Terms of Reference for the CWEC were presented to the CEA Executive Council, and carried in a vote among CEA members on June 6, 2016. The CWEC will support and promote the advancement of women in the Canadian economics profession. In the fall of 2016, Elizabeth Dhuey was nominated and confirmed by Council to take on the role of CWEC Chair. CWEN discussed various options (dissolution, change to study group, etc.) at the 2017 CEA meetings during the CWEN AGM. CWEC is expected to take over the CWEN activities starting in July 2017.
- i) **Winners of CEA Awards/Prizes:**

- i. **Doug Purvis Memorial Prize:** David Green, Craig Riddell and France St-Hilaire “Income Inequality: The Canadian Story”
- ii. **CEA Distinguished Service Award:** Gilles Paquet (University of Ottawa).
- iii. **Harry Johnson Prize:** Lukas Albrecht and Trevor Tombe (University of Calgary): “Internal Trade, Productivity and Interconnected Industries: A Quantitative Analysis”
- iv. **Robert Mundell Prize:** Moritz Ritter (Temple University) “Trade and Inequality in a Directed Search Model with Firm and Worker Heterogeneity”
- v. **Vanderkamp Prize:** Ram Acharya (Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada)

4. Secretary-Treasurer report (Bob Dimand):

- a) **Governance:** The Secretary-Treasurer’s report outlines how the CEA has now been a federally incorporated not-for-profit corporation for over a year, and further outlines how the incorporation now necessitates some revisions to the CEA Bylaws.
- b) **Taxes:** All CEA tax filings are up-to-date
- c) **Finances:** Overall, the financial situation of the CEA is healthy. The Treasurer’s report outlines how the 2015 and 2016 financial situation was volatile because of delays in publication of the Canadian Journal of Economics by Wiley-Blackwell. Taking the two years together, the report notes that there was a significant deficit in 2015 followed by a considerable surplus in 2016. The report notes that the adjusted deficit for each of 2015 and 2016 is thus smaller than the expected savings from cancelling the December meeting of the CEA Executive Council. In recent years the CEA has gone from substantial surpluses to modest deficits. What has contributed to this small structural deficit are expenditures such as: (1) having an Executive Director; (2) having an assistant to the Conference Organizer; (3) taking over funding of conference travel by graduate students and junior faculty when SSHRC discontinued that program; (4) funding study groups, and smaller additional expenditures such as having a data editor for the CJE; (5) funding travel and accommodations for new fellows and the CWEC chair; and (6) paying \$3000 a year to make Canadian Public Policy available to all members. The report notes, however, that the deficit could be reduced considerably if the CEA Executive Council takes certain measures such as meeting only once a year instead of twice.

Future conference venues: With future Conferences slated for Montreal (2018), Banff (2019), and Toronto (2020), the Secretary-Treasurer expressed his desire to meet in Ottawa in 2021 (at Carleton – since the last two Ottawa meetings were at the University of Ottawa), and in Vancouver in 2022 (at UBC since the last Vancouver meeting was the downtown campus of SFU).

5. Canadian Journal of Economics – Editor’s Report

CJE Editor Francisco Ruge-Murcia could not attend the AGM due to family obligations. Katherine Cuff is taking over as CJE Editor in June 2018, and will be the first female CJE editor. The CJE Editor’s Report will be published in the November issue of the CJE as usual.

6. Canadian Public Policy – Editor’s report (Mike Veall):

The journal continues to award the Vanderkamp Prize for best article in the journal and is now co-sponsoring the McCracken Award in Economic Statistics.

The average response time for a first decision in 2016 was 69 days – which is still above the target of 60 days.

On improving journal visibility, the CPP is ungating the upcoming June issue of the CPP for 45 days to help promote media coverage. Free subscriptions are also being provided to a number of journalists.

As per last year’s CEA Council decision, all journal articles are now freely available to all CEA members online.

7. Election of Officers:

When nominations closed on March 1st, there was only one person nominated for each position and thus all nominees were elected by acclamation.

a) **Vice President:**

M. Scott Taylor (U Calgary)

b) **Secretary-Treasurer:**

Werner Antweiler (UBC)

c) **Council Members:**

Isabelle Amano (Statistics Canada),

Guy Lacroix (Carleton U),

Ana Dammert (Carleton U), and

Maurice Roche (Ryerson U).

As the CEA is transitioning to a 4-member by 4-year model, we are only having one new council member rotate onto council in the next round because we have to rotate Ana Ferrer and Elizabeth Dhuey onto council (along with the presidential cycle nominee).

Any five members of the Association can nominate someone for open positions. Nominations will be received until March 1st.

8. Concluding Remarks from Incoming President (Frances Woolley):

The CEA conference in Antigonish 2017 was a great success. At last count, 704 people registered, which was on target with the registration goal set for the conference. The quality of the research presented at the conference was very strong. The President thanked everyone for organizing the conference and also to the sponsors.

Two major innovations stemming from the conference include:

- The Undergraduate Poster session. This session received very positive feedback. The goal is to do it again next year. The poster session was very informative on how honors level students are doing across the country
- The Department Chairs Breakfast. Three issues were discussed:
 - Learning outcomes and methods to share more information about learning outcomes.
 - How to improve gender diversity in hiring.
 - Recent policy changes with respect to SSHRC funding and the strategies for securing more research funding.

Frances will be working on the learning outcomes next year as CEA President.

The CEA President welcomed the Atlantic Canada Economics Association in joining the CEA meetings this year.

Other Business:

- a) **Lack of discussants at sessions:** It was pointed out that some sessions did not have assigned paper discussants, and some members felt that this was an issue of concern. It was suggested that talking to study groups about their preferences with regards to discussants, being pro-active about finding good session chairs, and providing clear information to session chairs about their responsibilities would help. The Secretary-Treasurer offered to compile statistics on which sessions did have discussants and pass on the information to Angela Redish, the incoming conference organizer for 2018. One default is if that if the Chairs fail to recruit discussants, then the session chair is responsible to act as the sole discussant.

b) **Sessions with disjoint topics:** It was noted that some conference sessions had disjointed topic areas. Withdrawals are largely responsible for these, leading to collapsing sessions and reassignment of papers. It was suggested that one way to address this is to penalize those who withdraw. We can start tracking which delegates consistently withdraw and letting them know that measures may be taken to not accept future submissions. It was noted that the CEA does keep a record of withdrawals that carries from one year to the next. Some are legitimate (medical/family) others do not give us reasons.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Nancy Gallini / Seconded: Robert Dimand