ASA Executive Committee Meeting  
November 1, 2003  
Denver, CO

The meeting was called to order by President Robert G. Hoeft. Those present were:

Robert G. Hoeft, ASA President  
Lowell E. Moser, ASA President-Elect  
Charles W. Stuber, ASA Past President  
P. Stephen Baenziger, CSSA President  
Kenneth J. Moore, CSSA President-Elect  
Vivien G. Allen, CSSA Past President  
Michael J. Singer, SSSA President  
J. Thomas Sims, SSSA President-Elect  
John W. Doran, SSSA Past President

Guests:  
Lee E. Sommers, Incoming ASA President-Elect  
James G. Coors, Incoming CSSA President-Elect  
John L. Havlin, Incoming SSSA President-Elect  
Ellen G.M. Bergfeld, Executive Vice President  
Cary Mitchell, President, American Society for Horticultural Science  
John Porter, President, European Society for Agronomy  
Froylan Rincon-Sanchez, President, Mexican Society for Plant Breeding and Genetics  
David M. Kral, Associate Executive Vice President  
Luther B. Smith, ICCA Executive Director  
Cathy Goudreau, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Recording Secretary

**000-099 ORGANIZATION**

**A002 Executive Committee**  
The following dates were confirmed for 2004 meetings of the Executive Committee:  
March 1-3 (leadership workshop to be held February 28-29) and August 2-5 (Budget and Finance Committee will meet August 1-2).

**A010 Divisions—General**  
The Executive Committee discussed management of Divisional web pages with the desire to have a standard policy for all. Luther Smith will draft a policy for Executive Committee review.

**A011.01A Student Activities Subdivision**  
Karolyn Terpstra, President of the Student Activities Subdivision, reported on discussions underway to reorganize and select a new name. The students will be voting on the reorganization proposal on November 4 and will report the outcome of that vote to the ASA Board of Directors at its November 6 meeting.
**A050 Regional Branches—General**
For the record, it was agreed that the following officers would represent the Society at the 2004 Regional Branch meetings:

- North Central Branch—March 16-17, Moline, IL (Robert Hoeft)
- Western Society of Crop Science—June 13-17, Logan, UT (Kenneth Moore)
- Western Society of Soil Science—June 13-17, Logan, UT (Michael Singer)
- Southern Branch—June 27-29, Biloxi, MS (Lowell Moser)
- Northeastern Branch—July 11-14, Bordentown, NJ (J. Thomas Sims)

**200-299 OPERATIONS AND FINANCE**

**A211 Budget and Finance**
The Budget and Finance Committee joined the Executive Committee meeting. Action was taken at the July 2003 Executive Committee meeting to move funding for the Development Officer position from the Special Opportunities budget center to the Society Services budget center but no timeline was attached. B&F requested a timeline be identified as to when this would be accomplished.

Action was also taken at the July 2003 Executive Committee meeting requesting the Agronomic Science Foundation to obtain outside funding for the Congressional Science Fellowship Program. In order for this to be accomplished, the Executive Committee will need to communicate to ASF that the Congressional Science Fellowship program should be added to their priority list.

**A236.1 Membership Services and Retention**

1. Luther Smith provided an update on a possible agreement with Proinsure to offer professional liability insurance as a member benefit for members certified in the Society’s certification programs. A survey is currently being conducted to determine the level of interest. The preliminary numbers look good and it appears this is a growing area of need. Further information will be provided when the results of the survey are complete.

2. Ellen Bergfeld updated the Executive Committee on progress being made on the Educational Materials/Science at Work project. A prototype presented to the CCA leadership received a favorable response. We are in the preliminary stages of exploring a potential partnership with DTN Network in Omaha who has distribution to the grower while we have the content. The next step in the process is that DTN will form some focus groups to gather further information.

3. Per previous Executive Committee action to request the Agronomic Science Foundation to develop a set of actions that can be used to support international member needs, a report should be forthcoming following the ASF Board meeting this week.
A300 Publications—General
Ellen Bergfeld presented a status report on previous Executive Committee action to explore a possible publishing partnership for the Societies’ books, monographs, and special publications. A new contact has been identified and Ellen will follow up with that individual.

ACS321.5 Electronic Conversion of Back Issues of ASA, CSSA, SSSA Journals—ad hoc
The first phase of the searchable journal project was to have all issues of *Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, Soil Science Society of America Journal*, and *Journal of Environmental Quality* up to and including the year 2000, digitized and placed on CD. In addition, *Journal of Production Agriculture* and *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education* were added to the *Agronomy Journal* digitizing project. The *Bulletin of the Soil Survey Association* was added to the *SSSA Journal* digitizing project because the Association was one of SSSA’s predecessors. *SSSA Journal* is available and being sold and all content for the other journals has been digitized and the CD set for each publication is either completed or in the final stages of review as the last step prior to pressing the master set and reproduction.

In addition to CDs, Ellen Bergfeld will look into the possibility of placing the back issues on DVD.

400-499 AWARDS

A431 General Awards
1. It has been brought to the attention of Society officers that recognition of individuals in the private sector through the Societies’ awards programs has been difficult to achieve. The Chairs of the Societies’ General Awards Committees will review award criteria in an effort to provide greater opportunities to enhance recognition of private sector individuals.

2. In its annual report, the A431 committee recommends follow up on the two new award categories previously discussed by the Executive Committee, i.e., an achievement award for support scientists, research associates, and technicians and an award for excellent papers in the Societies’ journals. The proposed achievement award has been forwarded to the Society Branch Presidents for consideration. The award for excellent papers has been forwarded to the Societies’ Editors-in-Chief for consideration.

A442.2 J. Fielding Reed Scholarship
The A442.2 annual report contains a suggestion that consideration be clarifying the eligibility of particular majors in the applied plant and soil sciences in order to advise the committee prior to review of candidates.

David Kral will write to the committee chair encouraging broad interpretation of the words ‘plant and soil sciences’.
A451 ARCPACS Service Award
The A451 annual report recommends maintaining the names of nominees for 1-2 additional years since the candidates were outstanding.

Ellen Bergfeld stated that beginning in 2004 Headquarters will retain nominations for all Society awards for three years.

500-599 PROFESSION ADVANCEMENT

A500 Profession Advancement
1. Tom Sims reported on the American Geological Institute project to prepare an environmental textbook for high school students. He will continue to work with AGI and follow the development of this project.

2. Tom Sims reported on the American Geological Institute’s Earthimage web photo bank. He will explore the possibility of submitting some images so our sciences and Societies are included.

ACS526 Women in Agronomy
ACTION: Per the recommendation of the ACS526 committee it was moved to change the name of the committee to Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences. Seconded. Carried.

600-699 COLLABORATION

A600 Collaboration—General
In previous action the Executive Committee established that requests for Society cosponsorship of conferences, recognitions, etc., be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Committee. In this regard, Lowell Moser, ASA President-Elect, developed criteria to help guide decisions on cosponsorship.

ACTION: It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following Policy for Tri-Societies Sponsorship of Programs.

Policy for Tri-Societies Sponsorship of Programs

Frequently one or more of the Societies are asked by other organizations to cosponsor a program or event. To insure that the program or event meets the standards of the Societies for providing accurate, science-based knowledge, each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requesting organizations must provide in writing sufficient information on the organization, program, and proposed speakers to ensure that the event conforms to such standards. Decisions on cosponsorship will be made by the respective Executive Committees and the Executive Vice President. The following criteria will be used when deciding on cosponsorship:

- The goals and objectives of the proposed cosponsored program should fit within the missions of the respective Societies.
• The program must address issues of importance and could range from local to international interest.
• Proposed speakers/leaders should be qualified so as to ensure program quality.
• Cosponsored programs shall not financially obligate the Societies, unless requests for financial support are made to the Executive Vice President for action by the respective Executive Committees and ratification by the appropriate Boards of Directors.
• Cosponsorship by the Societies should be recognized.