



Federation of Schools of Accountancy

Meeting Minutes: Virtual Meeting of the FSA Board

February 12, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST

Location: Zoom

Attendees: William Pasewark, Stephanie Bryant, Kristine Chernick, Richard Dull, Norma Ramirez Montague, Gary Peters, Anne Magro, Arline Savage, Jeffrey McMillan, Ann Watkins, Lisa Francisco, Joann David, Anna Howard, Jan Taylor-Morris, Kim Gatewood

Non-Attendees: Antoinette Smith

Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Richard Dull. All attendees are visibly available through video.

Welcome New Advisor

Richard Dull welcomes everyone to say hello to the new FSA AICPA advisor Joann David. He states that he has had the opportunity to speak with Joann a few weeks ago to discuss great opportunities for the organization and she will discuss their ideas later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

August 19, 2020 Minutes reviewed and approved by the Board

- William Pasewark approved
- Ann Watkins second
- Board approved using the “thumbs up” function via Zoom

Treasurer’s Report

Norma Montague provides the Board with an update on the 2020 Financials. She begins by sharing her screen with everyone to display the 2020 December FSA Financial Statements document.

Norma has highlighted the differences in Dues Receivable for 2020 to show the outstanding balance of \$13,100 that still needs to be collected. Also reviewing Operating Revenue, it is noted the increase in Dues for Full Members of \$2,000 comparing 2020 to 2019 revenue. Norma also pointed out the reduction in Operating expenses due to lower expenses for Trophy and Awards and Travel for 2020. There is

also a decline in income for 2020 due to the cancelation of the Annual Meeting and Faculty Consortium.

Norma also asked the Board if they were aware of any pushback from the membership concerning paying their membership dues. She stated that her school declined to pay the membership fee this year. Richard Dull says that he has talked about this topic with Kim Gatewood (admin) that there are a few schools inquiring about the payment of membership fees.

Kim Gatewood states that she has received a few emails from schools requesting more information regarding the purpose of the FSA organization and the benefit they receive from being a member. Pacific Lutheran University has requested to end their membership as an Affiliate School.

Kim also stated that she has noticed some schools have paid their 2021 dues that may have missed the 2020 invoice. It is most likely due to the displacement of most university administrative offices and more of them moving back to campus as the year progresses. Kim also noted that some schools have or are in transition to move their accounts payable systems to electronic. Where we were previously able to send an invoice via email may need to be transferred to their online server now. There is a request to send the 2020 invoice again for the schools that are still outstanding.

Richard Dull stated that his school had a similar issue with issuing payments because sending a check has a much longer approval process compared to simply paying via credit card.

Kim Gatewood will reach out to AICPA Treasury to verify if FSA is able to accept credit card payments going forward.

Jeffrey McMillan pointed out that the credit card process would be much easier for the schools to send in payment. Jeffrey noted that based on the list of schools with outstanding dues, that it would be highly unlikely that they do not have the funds to pay. He states that the process for payment approvals at their schools may be the reason primary reason for not paying.

Outstanding Dues Collection

Richard Dull brings a question to the Board of if they should write off the 2020 outstanding dues and move forward with collecting 2021. Norma Montague and Arline Savage state that they think the Board should move forward with writing off the 2020 dues. Richard noted that he would like to avoid pushing schools to the limit as most of them may be struggling due to the difficulty of the pandemic. Ann Watkins also notes that it would be a good idea as we don't want to risk losing their membership and that we should make a concession for this year. Gary Peters points out that it would be appropriate to write off the outstanding dues because the organization cancelled the Faculty Consortium in 2020. Jeffrey McMillan pointed out that if the Board decides to write off dues because of the cancellation of the conference, you may have schools who

did pay in 2020 request a credit or refund. Richard Dull says that if those questions do come up, the Board should address those individually.

Stephanie Bryant asks for clarification on the topic: "Are we going to forgive the unpaid dues and keep their membership intact?" Richard and Arline answer with yes. Richard states that we essentially write off dues receivables every year and that this particular year is extra ordinary. Stephanie states she understands the struggles of this year and it would be helpful if the Board develops a policy to refer to regarding uncollected dues to prevent inequitable treatment amongst the schools going forward. She also noticed that item was not listed in the Bylaws and we should consider adding it. Jeffrey McMillan noted that he agrees with Stephanie that we should add this to the Bylaws but he also noted that it is unlikely that the schools listed are unable to pay such a small amount in dues because they are such large institutions. He feels that it must be an administrative issue on the part of the schools rather than not having the funding. Ann Watkins noted that her State Society sent out a special form for schools that could not pay due to hardship and thinks it would be a good direction to move to. This way schools who can afford to pay have the opportunity to do so and to give those who cannot a break. Stephanie Bryant agrees with this plan and we should allow schools to ask for a 1-year disconcertion for unpaid dues with a commitment to pay the following year. She states that she is not in favor of an immediate write off with no commitment for future payment or explanation. Stephanie also states that we make it too hard for schools to send payment and should consider credit card payments. Richard Dull points out that the Board should be careful with the wording if they do decide to send out a letter as to not alienate and lose members in the long run. It may be appropriate to send a reminder first for those outstanding. Jeffrey McMillan agrees that it may have been a miss on the administrative side since most of them are working from home at the moment.

Kim Gatewood asks the Board would they like to set a deadline for the 2020 dues payments and suggest making April 2021 the cutoff date. This would be to prevent schools with outstanding dues from participating in the Student Awards program scheduled to start next week. Richard Dull and Arline Savage agree with this deadline and state that we should move forward with the reminder and follow the April deadline.

Administrator's Report / Website Updates

Kim Gatewood provides the Administrator's Report and gives quick update on the membership numbers. It is noted that there is now 120 Full Members due to the request of Pacific Lutheran University's request to end the membership. Recent accomplishments include sending out the Fall 2020 Newsletter in November of 2020 and states that members should feel free to submit articles or announcements for the upcoming Spring Newsletter. The 2021 dues invoices have gone out in January 2021 and payments are starting to trickle in. Upcoming plans include sending out the

announcement for the start of the Student Awards program to the Full Member Schools next week. It is also noted that we will send the award directly to the student as most schools are still closed or not holding an awards ceremony. There will be a dues reminder for 2021 going out near the end of March and again in April for those that are still outstanding. Kim also stated that a few of the website changes have come in a little slower than normal due to a few changes with AICPA IT department. The meeting minutes have not been removed as previously thought due to the change but should be updated and removed soon.

Deloitte/FSA Consortium May 2021

Kristine Chernick provides a status update for the Deloitte Consortium scheduled for May 2021. The conference will be held virtually this year for May 20-21st (Thursday and Friday). We are on the path to set a theme based on change and adaptability and what faculty should know for the new pivot in the accounting profession. The first day will be focused on leadership updates and how the pandemic has changed the profession with a panel session to discuss how new technology has changed how we work. We are hoping to get leadership from each area to discuss how changes have affected them. The third session will discuss the changes with CPA Evolution and what faculty should expect. They are still working through the second day, but it will go in the direction to discuss topics of new tech such as blockchain and cryptocurrency and to explain how that impacts our world. Another topic in consideration is fraud in a more digital world but day 2 is still in progress. Kristine has met with Kim Gatewood and the team to work on the administrative tasks and states that invitations are scheduled to go out in March.

Kristine also announces that Deloitte has decided to offer an invitation to 17 HBCUs and HSIs to this year's Consortium to be more inclusive and strengthen D&I efforts. It would be a good opportunity to also increase membership as well.

Richard Dull says that this is a great start to the planning process and is excited to work with everyone to get ready for the event.

2020 Service Awards

Kim Gatewood provides a brief explanation of the Silvoso and Practitioner award process and how the Board generally sends in nominations for those they feel are most deserving based on their work in the previous year. With the unusual year of 2020 we didn't nominate anyone for the awards. Gary Peters adds that we would normally give the awards out today, but we didn't want to rush and nominate someone without thinking through the process and consider presenting the award at the May or August meeting instead.

Richard Dull asks Kim Gatewood to send an email to each Board member as a reminder to send in nominations for each award by the end of February. Kim will send out the reminder this afternoon with a link to show previous winners of each award.

Joann David announces to the group that AICPA would like to change the timing of which the Mark Chain FSA award is given out to match the timeline of meetings at which the winner is presenting their work. Normally the winner is selected and presents at the next meeting the following year. They would like to have the winner chosen and presenting their work in the same year going forward. To make this switch, there is an ask to run the program earlier in the year in March to announce the winners in May and invite the winners to the AAA annual meeting in August to present their work. For 2021, the 2020 and 2021 winners will be announced concurrently at the 2021 annual meeting. The FSA would provide funding for the winners along with 2 Honorable Mentions. The award winners in the category earns \$5,000 and the Honorable Mention winners earn \$500 each. The ask for the Board members is if they would be able to provide funding for the 2021 winners. This summer an invoice would for the award would show the 2020 and 2021 winners, so it is an added expense for this year.

Richard Dull asks the group if there are any thoughts on making this switch to the new program or comments on why we should not approve the update. Gary Peters asks if the winners for 2020 have already been selected. Joann David stated that yes, they were announced in the Fall of 2020 and they are planning to present at the 2021 conference. Richard will have the honor of presenting both awards at this years CTLA conference. The Board votes to move forward with the new schedule change and added expense.

FSA Mission Statement / AICPA Joint Effort

To begin the topic, Richard Dull states that he would like the Board to move away from the topic of merging and focus on the objectives of the FSA. As the Board of the organization, we need to give direction to this organization and understand where we fit in today's climate. He also mentions that there are many opportunities for us to help the organization from diversity and inclusion to helping smaller schools without a masters' program. Richard also reads Article 2 of the Articles of Incorporation which houses the objectives of the FSA.

Arline Savage agrees that we should definitely focus on how things have changed so much in the accounting profession and one of the larger areas we should focus on is getting resources to poorer schools. She provides an example of her school's online courses being offered to the community college students in the area.

Stephanie Bryant asks the group if the organization has a strategic plan. Richard Dull states that it is safe to say that there is not one in place now. With the response, Stephanie states that having a strategic plan in place would greatly improve the direction and goals of the organization and we should consider adopting a new plan. She also notes that we are the organization that carries the torch for graduate education and should be our focus. Ann Watkins states that we have a great opportunity to provide guidance to the graduate level with the new changes coming with CPA Evolution and how faculty could develop curriculum. There is a lot of uncertainty and

we could help close the gap with our partnership with the AICPA. She also agrees that we need to develop a strategic plan to help us focus.

Richard Dull states that the next step should be to gather Board members who are interested to create a basic strategic plan to help provide guidance to the organization.

Gary Peters noted that he has gone back to understand the original direction of the organization and discovered that a formal plan hasn't been developed for the organization since the early 90s. There hasn't been a huge effort in creating a strategic plan outside of merging the conferences (APLG/FSA) in the early 2000s.

Stephanie Bryant notes that we should use our resources and partnerships. We have the ASCSB with the 2018 accounting standards and the accelerated path for accounting accreditation. There is a lot that we can do. The strategic plan would give us a better idea of where to start and what needs to be done.

****Richard Dull briefly leaves the meeting to complete the introduction of day 2 to the APLG/FSA conference at 12pm.****

Gary Peters gives a quick update of how the APLG/FSA conference is going as a virtual meeting so far this year. So far there were 144 participants in the meeting for day 1 so things are going well. He notes that one item that has come up in conversation is that next year's meeting should be separate. The meetings were originally brought together around 2004 because both groups seemed to be covering similar topics in their annual meetings. Stephanie Bryant notes that we in a unusual position because we decided not to merge but would like to continue the joint meetings. The issue with holding separate meetings would be having to travel twice for similar information and most people would not be able to do this.

Ann Watkins asks the group to consider hosting a virtual meeting in the fall if it comes down to us separating meetings. It would give an opportunity to see if we have the following and distinction to continue to hold a separate meeting. Jeffrey McMillan notes that it would be beneficial as APLG should host the leaders of the accounting schools and FSA has an appeal to everyone involved in the accounting programs if we consider the objectives of each group. Gary Peters asks Stephanie Bryant if it would be possible to meet to discuss a possible joint meeting next year for the FSA and ASCSB to discuss accreditation and a potential partnership. She says she is open to this discussion and notes creating additional partnerships is a great pathway for the FSA organization to continue. She also states that she likes Ann Watkins idea of hosting a virtual conference as it eliminates much of the cost of holding a conference.

Gary notes that the topic of separating meetings was not an aggressive push or solid conformation that we will be separating meetings next year. The conversation was mostly passive, and he thought it would be a good topic to bring to the Board should it ever become reality. Richard Dull notes that this topic comes up every 2 or 3 years if

there will be a separate or joint meeting the following year. Gary notes that he will also be on the planning committee for next years APLG/FSA meeting.

Richard Dull asks Joann David to provide an update for the AICPA Joint effort.

Joann David provides a quick introduction of her background with AICPA and discusses ways that FSA could help with getting information out regarding CPA Evolution. She also introduces Anna Howard as part of the CPA Evolution task members. Her goal at the AICPA is to draft model curricula and academic resources for the CPA Evolution as a member of the academic team. The academic team hosts a monthly faculty hour webcasts to share updates on CPA Evolution. Anna suggests that FSA should make CPA Evolution the next challenge to focus on how to deliver useful information regarding the changes to the membership.

Joann David suggests that it would be a great opportunity for the FSA to consider partnering with the AEC to be a key pipeline in distributing information regarding the new curriculum to the membership. The graduate program focus of the FSA is ideal. Joann also discusses the content she is working that will be distributed to membership regarding the changes. The Distinguished Achievement award nominations are now open and will be on record for 3 years. Therefore, if the person is not selected the year they are nominated, they will be still held in consideration for 2 years following. The Fellowship for Doctoral students will be opening March 1st. The AEC is looking for new volunteers to serve on their committee for a 3-year term. Gary Peters notes that a growing topic of concern as of yesterday (day 1 of the conference) after the CPA Evolution presentation is a mix of excitement and hesitation from members concerning the timeline rollout. The concern is due to the understanding that students of today are expected to take the new exam with limited experience with the new content. Joann noted that AICPA is working to grandfather students that are in the process of taking the exam or currently studying to take the exam that is most relevant to their education. The consideration for these students is still in the works. Anna Howard also noted that data analytics function is the key change to the core courses, and we can create a roadmap to the disciplines to understand what it should look like. That would be an interesting discussion to have. Richard Dull notes that in his experience, it takes at least 2 years to change curriculum on the university level. Anna noted that they have task forces in place to assist with the changes and questions that may come forward with the institutions. She noted that there wouldn't be much change within the core curriculum. Richard stated that one thing we've learned in the last year that we can make changes a little faster if we must.

Richard Dull lets Board members know that we need to populate the Nominating committee, Member resources committee, and the Education regulation committee to start on the changes we would like to make to the organization. He asks Kim Gatewood to send an email to the Board members to gauge what people are interested. Kim will send an email this afternoon for committee volunteers.

Jan Taylor-Morris also stopped by the meeting to provide a brief introduction as the new Academic in Residence at the AICPA.

Other Business

No other business

Meeting adjourned by Richard Dull at 12:40 p.m.