

**Minutes SAGA Executive Meeting
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building
Tuesday, February 04, 2020**

Prepared by: Raelene Petracek

PRESENT: Jason Fredette (chair), Dennis Ewanus, Keith Head, Morley Ayars, Gratton O'Grady, Hamish Tulloch, Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein, Ewald Lammerding, Carter Altwasser, Adam Ornawka, Raelene Petracek

by phone: Eric Johnson, Irene Ahner, Deanne Belisle, Henry de Gooijer

Regrets: Ewald Lammerding, Bryan Harvey, Mayson Maerz,

1. Call to order by Chairperson Jason Fredette at 7:00 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - **MOTION:** K. Head. CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from January 2020 meeting
 - Minutes were not available – adoption deferred to March meeting
4. Business arising from the Minutes
 - Deferred to next meeting
5. Financial Report – D. Ewanus
 - Financial Report was electronically distributed by D. Ewanus prior to the meeting.
 - TCU invoice circulated for information
 - **MOTION** The Treasurer's report as circulated: D. Ewanus CARRIED
 - **ACTION:** Signing authority will need to be changed:
 - President- J. Fredette, Treasurer- M. Ayars, Secretary-R. PetracekPresidents note: Thankyou Dennis for your years of service and job very well done.
6. Correspondence
 - None

7. Committee Reports

Scholarship – K. Head

- There have been 3 more donations. Balance is \$11,980 before disbursing the two scholarships awarded this year.
- Hamish will provide a report and will try in the future to have it ready in time for the Reunion

ASA – C. Altwasser

- Ag Bio Challenge – last weekend. Had 7 teams.
- Thankyou

- Jason for attending the Grad Banquet.
- At reunion – raised approx. \$1500.00 for Bedpush
- Mayson for the Twitter pushes
- Louis is working on Alumni to help push bed
- Most of the Bedpush plans/details are done
- Calcutta Bowling date – Feb 25
- Feb 29 – Slopitch tourney at golf dome

Reunion Report – J. Fradette/E. Johnson

- Another successful reunion experience but numbers were down
- Not a big attendance by the younger years. May be that they have a social media presence and that may be the way they stay connected. This is something we need to monitor.
- It is a big job to get the reunion chairs and some years it is difficult. Need to encourage them to ask the Exec to help.
- Comment from the younger grads. They know their group but aren't as interested in contacting others. We may need more than one Chair per year. Also are the clubs – Eric will look into this.
- Question: How to encourage the current students to attend the Mixer. In the past they worked at what was then the Smoker.

Banquet/Mixer Report – E. Lammerding/D. Belisle

Report provided

The math works for everything they quoted us... except for the extra microphone. They did not mention an extra price of \$180 (Facility Technician), simply to have a wireless mic. Not that big of a deal, because it was so much handier for the photo session, but it was not included in the original prices list. We did not ask either, just assumed on our part, that it came with the room.

Of note, compared to 2019: The room price rose by \$350 from last year. In contrast, the 15% discount rose \$85.59.

And of course, food cost: ^ .45/person for the main course ^ .25/person for the midnight lunch. (I should of had a few; alas, nary a one)

And if we had quoted TCU 325 people instead of 350, we would have saved another \$935. On that part, I propose we consider going with our final sales # as of Wed. morning (when we have to give TCU a number), and figure on their overage % to cover the late shows. We were quoted TCU covers 5% which would have meant another 16 people (of 325).

To that effect we would have room for just a few latecomers, and then we simply have to say... No More!

Friday Mixer Event Report - H. Tulloch

- Went well but attendance was down. Weather was cold which was reflected in attendance
- There was an additional group on Sunday
- Note for CLS tours – they need to be contacted directly. We will put that on website
- Dairy Barn – Hamish will find out the proper contact for that
- Feedlot tour: will continue with Ewald as contact.

Hockey – C. Anderson

- Sent thanks to the College teams

Newsletter – E. Lammerding

- Have been a few more returns
- Now have less than 20 emails bouncing back
- Approx 20 have switched from mail to email

College of AgBio Alumni and Development Office Report – H. Tulloch

- Nothing to report

Crop Production Week – J. Relf-Eckstein

- Attendance was remarkable considering the weather

Membership/Website – K. Head

- Report Provided:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Currently there are 1869 members:

- 79 – 2019 Annual Members including 3 free memberships
- 58 – 2020 Annual Memberships including 11 free memberships
- 50 - Honorary Life Members
- 1680 – Life Members
- 2 – unknowns

Newsletter mailing list:

- 1190 – e-mail list
- 647 – postal list
- 31 – no contact information
- 1 - unsubscribed in Dec 2019

Membership files have been archived. These are Vern's files and may not be current as of the year ends but are close and will serve as historical records.

- Oct 31, 2016 (SAGA membership Oct 18, 2016)
- Oct 31, 2017 (SAGA Membership working copy Nov 9 2017 Oct 31 Year End)
- Oct 31, 2018 (SAGA Membership working copy Oct 16 2018)
- Oct 31, 2019 (Master Membership list Oct 31 2019 Year End List Revised 1)

It is important that a Membership file current as of year end (Oct 31) be archived every year. Such files contain important historical information that should be preserved.

Annual Memberships

At what point do we de-list annual members? It is important to keep a record of expired annual memberships, but at what point do non-current members no longer receive the Newsletter or be

listed on the website? In the past all members have been listed on the website along with their year of annual membership.

At one point (1936) the Constitution stated that “Fees shall be paid annually in advance. Any member more than one year in arrears shall be suspended from membership.”

Renewal notices should be sent to annual members. There is a means by which this can be done through the “Contact a Member” function on the website but will require some set up. There is a precedent for reminders. In the 1960’s letters were sent out to remind members. There was also a form on the back page of the Newsletter to send in with the \$1.00 membership fee.

Membership Affiliation

There is a need to formalize a means of designating year of graduation and affiliation of graduates. It has been quite convenient to use “C” for College and “S” or “Agric” for School. However, since the School’s demise graduates are all from the College. Possible designations could be “Deg” and “Dip”.

The administration of the School of Agriculture was moved to the new ag building in 1991, the Director position was abolished in 1993, and the School as an administrative unit was disbanded in Nov 1998.

The number of graduates from the School was tallied from 1947 to 1991, suggesting that after 1991 students did not formally register in or graduate from the School, but from the College.

On the other hand, perhaps there is no longer a need to differentiate between degree grads and diploma grads as both are now College grads.

List of Graduates

SAGA needs to be able to access a list of grads from the College for the years from 2000 to present. The grads are listed in Forever Young up to 1999, but since then there is no means of confirming grads for membership status, for Empty Saddles, or for grad year and affiliation.

A list of graduates is critical to maintaining accurate alumni membership files. Such lists help sort out name changes since graduation, members that go by their second name but of course are listed by their first names, and to confirm that a death notice is in fact an Ag Grad and the graduation year. Unfortunately, students graduating since 1999 do die and we have no means of confirming their grad year or affiliation.

The list need not contain any personal information other than year of graduation, degree or dip, and perhaps hometown. This is the information in Forever Young. It is a critical reference for confirming memberships, empty saddles, and reunion lists.

In the past, grads from both the School and the College were listed in the Newsletter.

WEBSITE REPORT

The heart of the website is the Open Cart Module that allows on-line purchases of memberships, reunion tickets, and any other items that SAGA may wish to sell. Dennis has worked closely with Steve Dawe of The Webstation to make the system work very well.

When the University provided the on-line registration service there was a charge ranging from 10-15%. The savings from not using the University service have about covered the website development costs.

The website is also a source of information for the membership. Details of the Reunion and events such as Cheers with Peers are posted. Empty Saddles obituaries are posted. There is also a membership list that can be searched, along with a contact module that allows contact with a member through the website so that personal information is not divulged.

Historical information is being archived on the website. AGM minutes and Executive minutes are archived back to 1999.

Newsletters are archived back to 1960. Newsletters from 1935 to 1959 are bound in hard cover so cannot be scanned. Both history books can be downloaded from the website.

Website maintenance schedule and protocols have been documented and can be made available to the Website Committee.

Automation of Membership Data on the Website

The Website committee met with Steve Dawe of The Webstation on Jan 28. One item of discussion was using the website to manage the membership list.

It is possible to automate many aspects of membership activities:

- When a grad registers for the Reunion, the details (address, phone number, e-mail, etc) can be automatically updated in the membership file.
- New members and membership renewals can be automatically added to the file
- Annual members can automatically receive a renewal notice
- Monthly e-mails, the Newsletter, important notices, etc can be automatically delivered via the website

This is likely something to work toward. However, there are concerns about the need to confirm all member details and how easy it will be to access the underlying data. The website does not have as good functionality as Word or Excel when it comes dealing with data.

Estimated cost to develop this capability is \$1000.

Head, Ewanus, and Lammerding
Membership/Website Committee

Discussion during meeting:

- Question: When do we delete the annual memberships? Keith will send out reminders for those that have lapsed.
 - Discussion around setting up autorenewal – will look at again later
- Membership affiliation: Hamish will find out the year that there would no longer be School
- List of Graduates- we have nothing after 1999, would need name, year and maybe hometown. Hamish should be able to generate that list for us.

Hall of Fame –

- No Report
- Was noted that the Western Producer covered it well.

MAL – I. Ahner

- Irene acquired Greystones 1944, 1945, 1946 and noted that there were a significant number of women enrolled.

Vice President –D. Belisle

- Nothing additional to report

Past President –E. Johnson

- Report provided
Potential Honorary Life Members
I have sent a proposed list to Gratton, Bryan, and Jason.
- **ACTION:** Contact Eric with any suggestions or comment for Hon Life Members in the next two weeks. The Committee will make a decision and bring recommendations to the April meeting.

President Report –J. Fredette

- Report Provided:

As this is my first report since being President, I would like to take the opportunity to thank SAGA and the SAGA executive for accepting me in this role.

The 2020 reunion was a success, thanks to the SAGA Executives who lead the planning, and the reunion chairs that coordinated grads. It was a job well done by everyone. That said I know we all have some ideas of what worked and what didn't and the Executive should bring these recommendations forward for next year. I know Ewald has already started this discussion by email so we can start from there.

Even though it has only been a few weeks as President I have had the pleasure to attend a couple functions on behalf of SAGA.

The first was the 2020 College of Agriculture and Bioresources graduation. This was a well-planned and well attended grad that highlighted and congratulated the achievements of the class of 2020. I was very pleased to see that SAGA was part of this function, both as a formal part of the agenda, and because a significant number of grads had family there that were actually SAGA members. Thank you to the ASA for the invitation and a chance to talk about how the connections made in your college years can, and will, continue post-graduation. In future years SAGA may want to consider some support for this event such as a couple items for the silent auction.

The second event was the Crop Production Show Sponsors social that was held January 13. Joanne Relf Eckstein had made arrangements for ASA to attend to promote themselves and this years bedpush. Carter Altwasser along with Bryce Maxwell, Jayden Nail, and Jaden Nell were there and did an excellent job of connecting with people and organizations, and even got a few unexpected donations. Many SAGA members have quite well established networks with the Saskatchewan Ag industry and opportunities like this where we can introduce students to our contacts is a simple thing to do, but may open doors now and maybe into the future.

Overall, it appears my upcoming year as SAGA president will be busy and rewarding. Over the year I hope to continue some of the work Eric and SAGA have initiated. This will include to continue building connections with students and ASA; to ensure SAGA is maintained as a network and resource for all grads, including recent years; and to ensure our executive is at capacity and responsive by having incoming people ready, especially if we can recruit more recent grads.

Thanks again for this opportunity,

MOTION: Accept Reports: E. Lammerding CARRIED.

8. New / Other business

Archives:

- Keith spent a couple of days going through the archives. In addition to the documents noted the following newsletters are missing: Vol 224 Aug 99- Vol 238 April 2005, Vol 229 April 2001 – 238 April 2005.
- We will try to find the missing items
- Keith will get boxes from the archives

Report provided:

The records of SAGA are lodged with the University of Saskatchewan Archives, Rm 301, Murray Memorial Library. The records contain documents back to the beginnings of SAGA and are an important history of SAGA (see “A guide to the Records of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association” attached as separate document).

There is an item called the President’s File. It is to contain all the pertinent documents of a president’s tenure. Documents would include:

- AGM Minutes and Agenda c/w committee reports
- Executive Minutes and Agendas c/w committee reports
- Audited year end Financial Statement
- Honorary Life Member biographies (Banquet Program)
- SAGA Newsletters published during the year
- Other significant documents ie Constitutional amendments, special reports, scholarship T of R, etc

The documents for the president’s term are assembled by the Past President and lodged with Archives.

In the past there has apparently been an Archive Committee. Copies of the Newsletter were addressed to the Archive Committee.

There have been no minutes, financial statements, or other executive documents lodged with the Archives since 2012.

There have been no Newsletters lodged with Archives since 2006.

Documents Missing from Archives:

- Executive Minutes:
 - 2000 – Dec
 - 2001 – Mar, April, Sept, Oct, Nov meetings
 - 2002 – Feb 15, Dec 13
 - 2003 – Jan 3, April 11
 - 2009 – Jan 6
- AGM Minutes:
 - 2000 - 65th AGM
 - 2001 – 66th AGM
 - 2010 – 75th AGM

Scholarship Name Change

- Discussion re: Suggestion at AGM to rename scholarship after Vern Racz. The Scholarship Committee had originally considered naming the scholarship after someone but decided to keep the name as SAGA.
- Noted: donations can be made in memory of someone if the person making the donation wishes.

MOTION: The name of the Scholarship will remain the same - CARRIED

9. Date of Next Meetings

- TUESDAY March 3rd
- TUESDAY April 7th

10. Motion to adjourn B.Harvey at 8:30 PM