

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Chairperson of the Board Christina Romer called a regular meeting of the Executive Board of the Western Economic Association International (WEAI), a California nonprofit corporation, to order at 2:08 pm on 29 June 2022 in a hybrid format via Zoom and in-person at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

The following Board members were present in-person: President Christina Romer, Immediate Past President Alan Auerbach, Elected Directors Joel Waldfogel and Thomas Lemieux, CEP Editor Brad Humphreys, EI Editor Tim Salmon, and Executive Director Wade Martin. Attending via Zoom were President-Elect Dora Costa, Vice President Janet Currie, Elected Directors Kathleen McGarry, John Ameriks, and Pat Bajari, Secretary-Treasurer Laura Baldwin plus incoming board members Nancy Rose and Susann Rohwedder and guest Julie Barie.

CHAIRPERSON AND RECORDING SECRETARY

Romer served as chair and Martin and Barie served as recording secretaries.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Board approved the draft minutes of the 27 June 2021 Board meeting as circulated 9 August 2021.

OFFICER'S REPORTS AND CONFERENCE FORMAT DISCUSSION

The Board discussed options for conference format going forward including in-person, virtual, and hybrid. The experience of other associations such as NABE and the Canadian Economic Association were discussed. WEAI staff will explore the option of hosting a one-day virtual conference prior to the start of the in-person conference. Martin indicated that in-person attendees could have access to virtual sessions as well with the first day virtual model.

Martin reviewed session figures and distribution compared with the most recent Portland conference.

Martin reviewed the Annual Conference figures and revenue patterns as well as the International Conference for the virtual 2021 conference. He discussed the variability of agreements with each international partner and how profit/loss fluctuates accordingly.

Allied Societies' participation at recent virtual conferences and prospects being tied to conference sites and success were also discussed.

WEAI membership rebounded with conference participation as most join in conjunction with participation or journal submission. Journal circulation was discussed with regard to Wiley's pricing and licensing models.

Institutional Membership has slipped during the pandemic. The WEAI strategy for coming months includes reengaging IMs and Allied Societies to build those numbers back up.

The Board discussed the option to form a subcommittee to look at ways to increase membership, virtual participation, and possible changes to the journals to increase opportunities for members.

Data on the 1.5-day program for the Graduate Student Workshop were presented. An explanation of how the program works including presentations and mock interviews was provided. A discussion of the selection process followed the presentation of the data.

Martin reviewed the data from the Wiley publisher's report and the trends in journal reach, circulation, readership, etc.

Baldwin presented the Secretary-Treasurer report summarizing the written report. No questions or comments. Financial reports and tax returns were reviewed. **It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved** to accept the financials and tax returns as submitted.

The April election results were presented. The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer position were reviewed and described by Baldwin. The position will go unfilled temporarily.

EDITORS' REPORTS

Humphreys presented the 2021 CEP editor's report. He mentioned that CEP started a Twitter account this year to try and increase engagement with the journal. His challenge is finding people who are willing to referee articles. The number of requested reports versus reports received has become an ongoing concern.

Salmon presented the EI 2021 Editor's report. Time to first decision is down. He does a lot more desk rejects than the previous editor. He reviewed changes to the editorial board and reviewed major policy changes – data availability policy overseen by Farasat Bokhari; also, publication of managing editor on each paper to increase transparency; increase in impact-factor; best paper; outstanding referees. The Board discussed various items related to journal success and management such as withdrawals, fee waivers, article referral processes, the no-revisions policy, and the list of "journals that count" and those that do not for AACSB accreditation at business schools. Salmon is working to position EI as a forward-thinking journal.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Romer presented the results of the Nominating Committee report thanking Janet Currie and Kathleen McGarry for serving. Discussion of the candidate recommendations followed. A ranked list of nominees for Vice President, Academic Director and Non-academic Director was **moved, seconded, and approved**.

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Martin discussed the proposed budget for 2023 and explained his method for extrapolating numbers. It was **moved, seconded, and approved** to accept the 2023 proposed budget as submitted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORITY OVER EXPENDITURES

The resolution for financial supervision consistent with the proposed 2023 budget by Executive Director Martin was **moved, seconded, and approved**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Members of the Board reviewed the Conflict-of-Interest policy. Forms were circulated to members present for signature and was sent for e-signature for all remote participants.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Martin announced the Melbourne conference for 2023 and confirmed keynote speakers. Board members are encouraged to attend and participate. Various locations for 2024 and 2025 are being evaluated. Suggestions are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Waldfoegel shared a thought about the WEAI serving a role for matching mentors and mentees asking what happens to the GSW nominated students who are not selected. Is this a way to keep all applicants aligned with the WEAI into the future? Options will be explored.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Romer adjourned the meeting at 4:39 pm.

DRAFT MINUTES

Respectfully Submitted,

Wade E. Martin and Julie A. Barie
Recording Secretary
20 July 2022

