



Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Sigma Chapter  
79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel, Madison, WI  
April 1, 2009 – 11:00AM

President Dianne Weber called the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Sigma Chapter to order at 11:03AM at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison, WI.

#### Review and Adopt Agenda

Moved by Kathy Eisenmann and seconded by Steve Kinzel that the agenda be adopted as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Edie Felts-Podoll was appointed parliamentarian.

#### Review and Approve Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting

Moved by René Mehlberg and seconded by Marilyn Herman to file the 2008 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Kathy Eisenmann, Mary Brintnall-Peterson and Annette Bjorklund were appointed to the 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes Review Committee.

#### Treasurers Report – Jeanne Baum, Treasurer

Treasurer Jeanne Baum reviewed the chapter financial statement for March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009. Moved by Jeanne Baum and seconded by Karen Dickrell to file the report as presented for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

The proposed annual budget for 2009-10 was presented.

Dan Malacara, Wally Hitt and Karen Dickrell were appointed to the audit committee.

#### Election of 2009-10 Officers – Chuck Law, Chair, Nominations Committee

Chuck Law presented the proposed slate of nominees: President-Elect – Paul Roback; Secretary – Michelle (Shelley) Tidemann; County Director – Ken Schroeder; County Director (1 year term) – Jenny Erickson; State Director – Ann Keim; Retiree Director – Dan Wilson. No additional nominations from the floor. Following three calls for further nominations, Eisenmann moved and Baum seconded that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot cast for the presented candidates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

Member Services (Marma McIntee, Chair) – Committee members were acknowledged: Marma McIntee, Matt Hanson, Michelle Tidemann, Linda Olson, Renee Vertin, Will Andresen, Marty Havlovic,

Dianne Weber (Board Liaison). The committee met twice by WISLINE. 2008 regional awards were presented in September 2008 to Donna Menart, Diversity/Multi-Cultural Team, Dairy Team, Tina Kohlman and Jenny Wehmeyer. Members submitted for 2009 regional recognition include Joan Wimpe, Mary Novak and Chris Kniep. Not all categories received nominees this year and members are encouraged to nominate colleagues or self. Award nominations are due January 31 each year. Matt Hanson is incoming Chair and will receive 2009-10 nominees.

Global Relations – no report

Grants/Professional Development (Bob Cropp, Chair) – Committee members were acknowledged: Christine Kniep, Joan LeFebvre, Faye Malek, Patrick Nehring, and Bob Cropp. Committee is seeking a 4-H Youth Dev and Ag representative for 2009-10 committee. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Twenty-eight grants for a total of \$32,868 were awarded during 2008-09 representing a great diversity of professional development plans. Quality keeps increasing. There is great cooperation between this committee and Resource Development. This year, specific named awards developed for J.M. Mackey and Ellen Fitzsimmons gifts to the endowment fund.

Legislative/Benefits Review (Dwayne Rohweder, chair) – Challenging times for state pension funds. Employee Trust Fund (ETF) released annuity adjustments effective May 1, 2009 – core -2.1% and variable -42%. The core fund is averaged over 5-year period so this year's decrease will continue in the averaging for 4 more years. The variable fund is a one-time loss with no averaging multi-year averaging. ETF is considering changes to the variable fund. Three thousand people entered the variable fund last year. ETF is considering adding protections (there are none presently) or eliminating the variable fund. There are some indications that we may be at bottom. Social Security and Civil Service Retirement System went up 5.7% this year but we are advised to not expect further increases for the next 3 years. We are interested in recruiting a new committee member to assist Dwayne (presently a committee of one).

Membership Recruitment (Gary Korb, Chair) – Committee members were acknowledged: Gary Korb, Ellen Andrews, John DeMontmollin, Randy Knapp, Edie Felts-Podoll, Ken Schroeder, Tom Wilson, Steve Kinzel (Board Liaison). 2009 ESP membership renewal/recruitment brings good and bad news. A number of previous members haven't returned dues yet for this year but there has been a flurry of renewals as the annual meeting approached. Current membership stands at 112 annual members and 155 retired life members. Nineteen new members will be joining today as well as two new life members. New members include Annette Bjorklund, Pattie Carrol, Heidi Dusek, Sara Gronski, Richard Halopka, Jason Kauffeld, Mary Ann Knellwolf, Carrie Laboski, Diane Mayerfeld, Cristina Parente, Jessica Potterton, Colleen Pulvermacher, Paul Putnam, Tom Schmitz, Kevin Schoessow, Darien Simon, Dean Slark, Lori Zierl and Julie Simek. New life members are Gerry Campbell, Merry Klemme, Cathy Nelson and Dan Wilson. Good trends for Wisconsin ESP included being the largest state association in WI, the optional two payment life member option is working well, the committee is more fully populated and active at this time, largest number of new members in recent years and we are holding employed members a little better than the national trend. Challenging trends include membership numbers have slipped (although some dues will likely still be received), budgets are tight and retirees are 55% of membership (mirrors national). Edie Felts-Podoll is incoming committee chair.

Nominations (Chuck Law, Chair) – given previously.

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Resource Development (Tom Parslow, Chair) – Committee members were recognized: committee terms expiring – Jim Barthel, Gloria Fauerbach and Pat Walsh; terms continuing one more year - Peg Riedy, Mike Perkl and Tom Parslow; terms continuing two more years – Keith Vander Velde, Ellen Fitzsimmons and Gloria Green. The endowment fund was established originally 1953. This year, we will exceed 150 faculty and staff receiving grants from the endowment fund. Major contributors or their family representatives will be at the noon luncheon. Recipients are encouraged to personally thank donors or their representatives. The fund has lost value due to economic conditions. The fund is invested with the UW Foundation which, in turn, invests in buildings and renting buildings – which have gone down but we expect some stability as we go forward. Committee goals include updating ESP website to include on-line donations and revamping the ESP Evergreens Tree in Pyle Center to be able to expand for more donations – creating a forest instead of a tree. Background on who receives grants: 83% county, 31% Family Living (a number of WNEP recipients), 31% were used for further subject matter expertise, 19% for degrees, non-ESP members are eligible. Donor background: gifts under \$500 are the vast majority, 46% of gifts are from county-based faculty and staff. Alpha Sigma Circle is available to give \$100/year for 5 years. Non-ESP members can contribute. Don Last is joining committee but one more new member is needed. Presently looking to identify new committee chair-elect.

Retiree – No report.

Moved by Mike Wildeck and seconded by Keith Vander Velde to place all reports on file. Motion carried unanimously.

Newsletter Report (Karen Joos, Editor) – Thanks were given to Dwayne Rohweder for informative articles on retirement systems. The new ESP logo is being used. The newsletter posted to website, retirees using e-mail receive the weblink in an e-mail message, pictures are posted separately on website to facilitate viewing and some newsletters and pictures sent via surface mail. Presently looking for a new volunteer for editor.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business

Adopt Proposed 2009-10 Budget. Moved by Jeanne Baum and seconded by Chris Kniep to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Bylaw changes (Mike Wildeck) – Bylaw changes have been prompted by contract liability issues last year. The proposed changes are intended to more clearly connect ESP with Cooperative Extension to extend state liability protection to ESP actions thus avoiding extra cost of board or event insurance.

1. Article II: Purpose -- add “Support the Extension mission of outreach scholarship.”
  2. Officer duties: add to President “including committee organization and appointments” and delete from President Elect.
  3. Article XV: Standing Committees, Section 1 – change committee names for more consistency with national ESP or our matter of practice.
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Amendment 1 -- Moved by Tom Parslow and seconded by Bob Cropp to insert the correct name for the Grants committee in the description of Resource Development Committee role. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment 2 -- Moved by Marilyn Herman and seconded by Gary Korb that the description of the Retirees Committee reflects the new name for Benefits Review Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment 3 -- Moved by Edie Felts-Podoll and seconded by Keith Vander Velde that Article V: Section 2 be edited to state that the President (not President-Elect) appoints committees. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Article XV: Section 2 – language proposed to state committees “normally” consist of 6 members rather than “will” as currently states.

Moved by Karen Joos and seconded by Dwayne Rohweder that the amended bylaws be adopted. Motion carried unanimously with previous three amendments stated. Grammatical corrections will be made.

Initiation of New Members and Recognition of New Life Members (Mike Wildeck) – new members were initiated and recognized.

President’s Comments and Recognition of Outgoing Officers (Diane Weber, President) – Outgoing President Weber encourages people to attend National ESP meetings -- in Fargo this fall. Thanks to the committee who made Olympics possible last night.

Induction of New Officers (Mike Wildeck) – President: Chris Kniep, President-Elect: Paul Roback; Secretary: Shelley Tidemann; Directors: Ken Schroeder, Jenny Erickson, Ann Keim and Dan Wilson.

Presentation of Gavel to President Chris Kniep – Newly installed President Chris Kniep expressed thanks to Dianne Weber for the hard work this year and expressed the need to continue on with the ESP mission, improving image of Extension, interdisciplinary approach, increasing members and engaging members in committees. She urged members to find a place where you can donate some time – as little as several hours or a term on a committee, to attend the summer picnic, to participate in the National ESP meeting in Fargo.

The 2009 Annual Meeting was declared adjourned at 12:16PM.

Recorded by JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Secretary

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