



Minutes  
Board Meeting | October 16, 2020

**In attendance:** Claudia Olivetti, Robert Moffitt, Kevin Lang, Chris Taber, Thomas Lemieux, Lisa Kahn, Uta Schoenberg, Danielle Staudt (staff)

The meeting opened at about 11:00 AM ET.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** President-elect Kevin Lang made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Management Transition:** Moffitt reported on the successful management transition from University of Chicago Press to the Population Association of America (PAA). PAA began fully managing SOLE as of July 1, 2020.

**EALE/SOLE Meeting:** Moffitt reported on the joint meeting with EALE, which had to be moved to a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seven hundred people attended virtually and there were 90 sessions and networking activities. The registration fee was reduced to €100. Moffitt will reach out to EALE for results of the post-meeting survey.

**SOLE 2021:** Lang reported on the SOLE 2021 Annual Meeting. The hotel has offered to move the meeting to 2023 without penalty, and with that in mind, Lang recommended that SOLE 2021 be held virtually. This recommendation passed unanimously. Lang suggested that the hotel be asked if additional rooms could be made available. It was also agreed that Lang would consider extending the deadline for submissions.

Lang further reported that Sandy Black and Claudia Olivetti will be the lecturers during the event. He also reported that memorial remarks on Finis Welch will be made at one of the plenary sessions.

**Code of Conduct:** Moffitt presented a draft Code of Conduct for consideration which was an edited version of that of the American Economic Association. Discussion ensued about how to handle reports. Moffitt agreed to reach out to AEA and NBER to see if SOLE could use their ombudsman if needed. It was suggested that a separate policy be created for anti-harassment. Moffitt asked the Board to approve the Code of Conduct as presented. The Board approved it unanimously.

**Draft Bylaws:** Moffitt presented the draft bylaws for the newly incorporated organization. Which must be changed to conform with Virginia law for incorporated organizations. Moffitt explained that no membership vote is needed for new organizations. A suggestion was made to accept the bylaws with the insertion of a clause that members must abide by the Code of Conduct previously accepted. The board voted unanimously to accept the bylaws.

**Lazear Prize Proposal:** Lang presented a new award proposal called the Lazear Prize. This award would honor SOLE's founder Edward Lazear and would be awarded to people who have displayed excellence in research, provided exemplary service to the field, and contributed to civil society through government service or policy setting. The board accepted proposal unanimously.

**Forthcoming policies:** Moffitt presented sample conflict of interest policies and reported that this was one of three policies that SOLE would need to draft and accept to comply with federal requirements for nonprofit organizations. The other two policies are a whistleblower policy and records retention.

**Finances:** Moffitt noted that a more detailed discussion of SOLE's finances would take place at the December board meeting, when a 2021 budget will be proposed. He mentioned that the Society is currently in good financial shape and is slowly building its reserve fund up the desired level of twice the annual operating budget.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.