The meeting was called to order by President John L. Havlin. Executive Committee members present were:

John L. Havlin, SSSA President
Mary E. Collins, SSSA President-Elect
J. Thomas Sims, SSSA Past President

Headquarters staff present:
Ellen Bergfeld, Executive Vice President
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Michela Cobb, Director of Financial Services
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Paul Kamps, Development Officer
Frances Katz, Director of Publications
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
Luther Smith, Executive Director Certification Programs

**ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation**
The Executive Committee received an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding detailing the operating procedures and working relationship between the Societies and ASF.

**ACTION:** It was moved that the Executive Committee request a meeting with the ASF Board of Trustees during the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City to further discuss the Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded. Carried.

ASA President Lee Sommers will contact the ASF Board Chair to arrange a time for the above requested meeting.

**S201.4 Strategic Planning**
The strategic Plan will be updated prior to the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City in an effort to inform the Board of Directors of progress that has been made.

**Strategy 1 - Society Structure**

1. **ACTION:** It was moved to approve the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Vice President document, as revised. Seconded. Carried.

ASA President Lee Sommers will provide a copy of the final version to Headquarters for the record.
2. The ASA Executive Committee has held several meetings/conference calls and has sought legal advice in an effort to move forward with the action taken at the November 4, 2004 ASA Board of Directors meeting to accept the proposed restructuring of the ASA Board of Directors and to create a tri-Society management committee. ASA President Lee Sommers prepared a draft document outlining possible responsibilities and authority of a tri-Society management committee. After discussing the document with legal counsel prior to this Executive Committee meeting it became apparent that ASA cannot accomplish reorganization, including separation of ASA program from business management, and position itself for further collaborations, through a management committee.

ACTION: It was moved to implement a 501c3 supporting organization to provide management services for the tri-Societies. Seconded. Carried.

Details of the above action will be presented to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors during the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

3. CONSENSUS ACTION: It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that in 2005 and thereafter, the SSSA Division Representatives on the Board of Directors have the responsibility of providing to the Executive Committee and Nominations Committee the nominations for Division officers during the second Board of Directors meeting at the annual meeting.

4. ACTION: It was moved to provide election results to any member when requested. Seconded. Carried.

Strategy 2 - Membership and Member Services

Susan Chapman presented an overview on the membership business plan. Priorities that the Membership Committee will focus on are industry/consulting, academia, and new members. Science in Action has been operational for about eight months.

CONSENSUS ACTION: It was the consensus of the Executive committee to revisit Society services provided at no charge to members and nonmembers alike.

Strategy 3 - Publications and Professional Meetings

1. Per previous discussions, the S370 Book Series Committee and the ACS325 Monographs Committee will be merged into a single committee with equal representation from ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. A proposed writeup for the new ASA-CSSA-SSSA Book Publishing Committee was discussed.

The Executive Committee agreed that the title of the committee should be changed to include monographs and special publications and that appointment of the committee’s chair rotate between the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Presidents.

ACTION: It was moved to approve the writeup for the committee as revised. Seconded. Carried.

Headquarters will include the committee write-up in the Committee Manual and will facilitate appointments.
2. Warren Dick will complete his second three-year term as SSSA Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2005. A call for nominations appeared in the March CSA News with applications due May 15. Several members have been identified as potential candidates for the position. These individuals will be sent a letter asking their interest and possible application.

3. The S889 committee was formed to recommend exact methods of soil analyses by applying validation procedures developed by the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC). Recent changes within AOAC have made the normal process of validation and publication impractical for SSSA through AOAC. The S889 committee prepared a validation proposal describing the process that will allow SSSA to continue validating soil test methods independently of AOAC but in cooperation with that organization.

ACTION: It was moved to accept the S889 committee report and the recommendation to publish official methods of soil analysis. Seconded. Carried.

4. The Executive Committee received a design concept and business overview of the redesign for CSA News. The redesign includes increasing the size and content of the newsletter and will include editorial/science, industry/external news, business/management articles, and international perspectives. The goal is to launch the new publication in January 2006.

CONSENSUS ACTION: It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to move forward with the redesign of CSA News and that Headquarters engage a consultant to develop possible logos and names for the publication.

5. Initiation of two new SSSA publications by 2006 is a tactic included in the Strategic Plan. (i) an independent SSSA magazine that is focused solely on scientific advances and their application to society and the profession, and (ii) a technical magazine for practicing professional soil scientists published in collaboration with other partners.

CONSENSUS ACTION: It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to research the cost of an independent SSSA magazine. In addition, the Executive Committee requested a draft proposal be prepared with input from the Soil Survey Horizons (SSH) editorial board on revamping SSH.

6. In an effort to promote the 2006 World Congress of Soil Science, program and registration information for the Congress will be included in the October CSA News.

7. John Havlin and Susan Chapman reported on their attendance at the Western Society of Soil Science meeting in Oregon. Tom Sims and Susan Chapman reported on their attendance at the Northeast Branch meeting in Connecticut. Discussions will continue on services SSSA can provide to the branches.

8. CONSENSUS ACTION: It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to schedule two SSSA Board of Directors meetings during the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City.
Strategy 4 - Professional Development

1. An update on the Society’s desire to lead a national effort for the certification and licensing of professional soil scientists was provided. The Society will request invitations to the various state soil science society meetings to encourage licensing and to offer up to $5,000 to help the states with their licensing efforts. Attendance at the state meetings will also provide an opportunity to promote the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.

2. ACTION: It was moved to approve the 2005 slate of awards and Fellows recipients. Seconded. Carried.

Strategy 5 - Public Policy and Outreach

1. Karl Glasener reported on activities of the science policy office. Action was taken in August 2004 to establish a Science Policy Advisory Committee to advise the Director of Science Policy. The committee holds quarterly conference calls and will meet during the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City. The Emerging Issues Committee has been active in meeting with the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Karl will continue to provide proactive grassroots education and advocacy efforts through the use of CapWiz software. He will also hold a session on How to Communicate with Congress during the annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Karl will attend the all SSSA Divisions Business Meeting (Monday morning) in Salt Lake City to report on his activities and encourage members to become involved in the Society’s science policy program.

2. Paul Kamps reported on promotional plans for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit during the annual meetings in Salt Lake City. Paul and Barbara Stauffer from the National Museum of Natural History will provide an update on the exhibit at the all SSSA Divisions Business Meeting in Salt Lake City on Monday morning.

Strategy 6 - Fiscal Strength and Development

The SSSA Budget and Finance Committee met in Madison August 2-3.

1. ACTION: Per the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, it was moved to increase nonmember journal subscription rates by 2 percent for 2006 and 2007. Seconded. Carried.

2. ACTION: Per the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, it was moved to discuss a dues increase at a rate no more than the cost of living at the first Board meeting in 2006. Seconded. Carried.

3. ACTION: It was moved to maintain the journal bundle options for 2006. Seconded. Carried.

4. ACTION: It was moved that the B&F Committee do a fiscal evaluation of Vadose Zone Journal from inception through budget year 2006 and further that the evaluation be completed by the 2006 annual meeting. Seconded. Carried.

5. Current policy is that income over expenses or deficits derived from the annual meeting are distributed to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA on a membership proportionate basis.
ACTION: It was moved that beginning in 2005 income over expenses or deficits derived from the annual meeting be distributed to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA based on a membership proportionate basis of meeting attendees. Seconded. Carried.

6. ACTION: It was moved that SSSA provide 9 months support ($1500/month) for science policy interns for the Director of Science Policy. Seconded. Carried.

7. Paul Kamps presented an update on the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit which is a $4 million project; $2.5 million for the main exhibit at the museum and $1.5 million for the educational component.

ACTION: It was moved that SSSA participate in a Smithsonian Soils Exhibit matching program of individual gifts, through December 31, 2006, up to a cumulative maximum of $15,000. Seconded. Carried.

The Executive Committee will discuss any further contribution that SSSA may want to consider at a later date.

8. ACTION: It was moved to create a development budget center beginning in 2006 and to provide support for development activities each year, the amount to be determined by the tri-Societies, for the purposes identified by the tri-Societies. Seconded. Carried.

9. ACTION: It was moved that space be allocated on the Society’s membership renewal statements to allow members to indicate making a contribution to the SSSA priority fund. Seconded. Carried.

10. ACTION: It was moved to provide up to $5,000 in SSSA promotional materials for the 2006 World Congress of Soil Science. Seconded. Carried.

11. Currently the B&F Committee is composed of four SSSA members, including the Chair. Each committee member serves a 4-year term and the Chair serves a 1-year term.

ACTION: It was moved to restructure the B&F Committee to be composed of members of the Board of Directors. Seconded. Carried.

12. ACTION: It was moved to approve the 2006 budget with minor changes. Seconded. Carried.

13. CONSENSUS ACTION: Because the Society’s fiscal year begins January 1, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee to schedule future Budget and Finance Committee meetings in the fall rather than the summer.

Meeting adjourned.