The meeting was called to order by President Mary Collins. Executive Committee members present were:

Mary E. Collins, SSSA President
John L. Havlin, SSSA Past President
Rattan Lal, SSSA President-Elect was unable to participate in the meeting but did approve all the actions that were taken following the meeting.

Also 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
Luther Smith, Executive Director Certification Programs
Cathy Goudreau, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Recording Secretary

S003 Board of Directors
It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to schedule a Board retreat during the week of the August Executive Committee meetings in Madison. The retreat will cover the dates of August 9-11, including travel time.

S005 Committees - General
It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to begin a review of committee structure in the near future.

S010 Divisions - General
Per a December 15, 2005 email, Mary Collins asked the Board Reps. to begin the process of reviewing the Divisional structure of SSSA through self-evaluation. This was meant to be a positive exercise, however, there has been little feedback from the Board. The Executive Committee will attempt to develop some key questions to provide the Board in order to stimulate discussion within the Divisions.

S201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws
The Executive Committee discussed the need for a corporate resolution authorizing the Executive Vice President to sign documents on behalf of the Society. Although the Society Bylaws address this in a broad sense a formal resolution should be in the records.

ACTION: Resolved that the Executive Vice President or his/her designee(s) is authorized to sign on behalf of and contractually bind the organization. Seconded. Carried.

S211 Budget and Finance
1. ACTION: Per the request received from CSSA, it was moved to contribute $10,000 to the CSSA Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute. Seconded. Carried.
2. ACTION: It was moved to request the Budget and Finance Committee to investigate SSSA Journal publishing costs with respect to the increased number of pages, with a report and recommendation back to the Executive Committee in August. Seconded. Carried.

3. ACTION: It was moved to request the Budget and Finance Committee to evaluate the possibility of providing a small amount of money to encourage undergraduate travel to professional meetings. Seconded. Carried.

Mary Collins will communicate the above two actions to the B&F Committee Chair.

ACS237 Membership and Society Identity
1. Headquarters prepared a preliminary document laying out some different member dues scenarios. The Society’s dues structure will continue to be studied and analyzed.

2. The Executive Committee reviewed a “Web Strategy and Branding Market Research” proposal prepared by a firm that specializes in internet initiatives of associations and nonprofits. The firm has partnered with a marketing services firm that will facilitate information-gathering and analysis about the Society’s market and brand opportunities.

ACTION: It was moved that the Society proceed with the branding proposal as soon as it is convenient to do so. Seconded. Carried.

S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies, and Practices
ACTION: Per the recommendation received from the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee, it was moved to accept the proposal to initiate payment of royalties to persons publishing books with SSSA. Seconded. Carried.

S304 Soil Survey Horizons
Improvements have been made to Soil Survey Horizons format including new features such as news and a history page. John Havlin has been talking with the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists President and will recommend that they identify a person to be appointed to the Soil Survey Horizons Editorial Board to provide input regarding consulting soil scientists.

S400 Awards - General
The Board of Directors recently approved an SSSA-SWCS Conservation Research Award with the proviso that a sponsor be sought for the honorarium. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to postpone discussion on sponsorship until a potential list of donors is identified by the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

ACS526 Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences
The annual report from the ACS526 committee contained several recommendations. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that Headquarters continue to work with the committee chair to address the recommendations.
S584 Soils Certification Board
ACTION: It was moved to charge the CPSS Board to study the feasibility of developing a state based certification affiliated with SSSA and to have a draft model(s) available for presentation to the SSSA Board of Directors at the November 2006 meeting in Indianapolis. Seconded. Carried.

S589 Smithsonian Soils Exhibit
Barbara Stauffer, Exhibit Developer at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, has sent a letter requesting that ASF/SSSA authorize an investment of up to $100,000 for continued development of the Soils: Worlds Underfoot exhibit in 2006. $50,000 of these funds would come from grants received from the NMNH on behalf of the exhibit and $50,000 of these funds would be released by ASF/SSSA from their exhibit fund.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend disbursement of $50,000 to the Smithsonian to support continued development of the design. Seconded. Carried.

Mary Collins will follow up with the ASF Board Chair regarding the above action.

S591 K-12 Committee
Action was recently taken to formalize a K-12 committee within SSSA. A call for volunteers to serve on the committee went out in the Newsflash. Before appointments are made to the committee, the Board and Division Chairs will be contacted for recommendations.

S711 Program Planning
1. According to the membership survey, changes in the annual meeting format are desired. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that Headquarters staff develop some scenarios of different meeting styles to present to the Board of Directors for discussion.

2. The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA program planners have held some discussions regarding the possibility of restructuring the A731 Location of Meetings Committee, including a change in the committee’s charge.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend to ASA that the A731 Location of Meetings committee be changed to a tri-Society committee and that SSSA be represented on the committee. Seconded. Carried.

3. ACTION: It was moved to request that the Agronomic Science Foundation consider being the host sponsor of an inaugural reception at the 2006 annual meetings to honor and recognize the current year’s Fellows, award and scholarship winners, and Past Presidents, by authorizing release of priority funds in the amount of $10,000. Seconded. Carried.

ACTION: It was moved if the Agronomic Science Foundation does not approve release of priority funds to sponsor the SSSA reception at the 2006 annual meetings, that an increase in registration fees be considered to cover the cost of the reception. Seconded. Carried.
4. The Executive Committee discussed proposed changes to the awards program at the annual meetings. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that the awards program will focus on recognizing the current year’s Fellows, award and scholarship winners. Chairs of the various award committees will continue to make the award presentations. All Society reports will be given at the all-Division business meeting.

5. ACTION: It was moved pursue the following cities as a possible meeting site for SSSA’s 75th anniversary in 2011 - San Antonio, Dallas, and Kansas City - with a preference of San Antonio. Seconded. Carried.

S890 North American Proficiency Testing Program  
ACTION: It was moved that SSSA policy is to not pay overhead on the NAPT program to universities if contracted. Seconded. Carried.

S900 International Activities  
ACTION: Per the suggestion received from a member of the SSSA Board of Directors, it was moved to investigate a more formal relationship with the European Soil Science Society. Seconded. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.