SSSA Board of Directors Conference Call
September 18, 2008
(Call started at 10:00 AM CDT; ended at 11:10 AM)

Gary A. Peterson, SSSA President
Paul M. Bertsch, SSSA President-Elect
Rattan Lal, SSSA Past President
Michael E. Essington, S-2 Board Rep
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.
Diane E. Stott, S-6 Board Rep.
Randal J. Southard, S-9 Board Rep.
David L. Lindbo, S-10 Board Rep.
Gary M. Pierzynski, S-11 Board Rep.
Sally D. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also participating:
Nicholas B. Comerford, Incoming Pres-Elect
Harold M. van Es, Incoming S-6 Rep.
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

S003 Board of Directors
1. By consensus the Board approved the August 21, 2008 SSSA Board of Directors conference call minutes.

2. Gary Peterson called for agenda items for the October 9 Board meeting in Houston. The agenda will be compiled and distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

S010 Divisions
The Board reviewed discussion items for the Divisional Business Meetings in Houston. An agenda will be compiled and distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

S201.4.8 Alternative Revenue Task Force
The Alternative Revenue Task Force has been appointed and will meet during the annual meeting in Houston.

S211 Budget and Finance
ACTION: Per the recommendation of the B&F Committee, David Lindbo moved that library subscription rates be tied to the Higher Education Price Index. Seconded by Gary Pierzynski. Carried.

The B&F Committee recommendation that page charges be tied to the Higher Education Price Index will be discussed at the October 9 Board meeting in Houston.
ACS536 Washington Presence

1. Karl Glasener reviewed the September 9, 2008 SSSA Science Policy Priorities document. Upon approval of the document, Karl will develop a strategy for achieving the goals to share with the Board.

2. Karl Glasener presented his Soil Science Advocacy Proposal. The two main components of the proposal are to engage in direct lobbying of Congress and to develop a strong grassroots advocacy campaign with Core Constituent Scientist Teams. It was clarified that a 501(c)(3) may dedicate up to the equivalent of 20% of its annual operating budget to lobbying without jeopardizing its nonprofit status. In the past, the Society has not approached the 20% level and does not anticipate doing so in the future.

ACTION: It was moved by David Lindo to approve the Soil Science Advocacy Proposal in concept and encourage Karl Glasener to move forward. Seconded by Paul Bertsch. Carried.

Carolyn Olson abstained from voting.

Karl will revise the proposal to include examples of activities for the Core Constituent Scientist Teams and how university employees can participate.

3. The Board reviewed the Society’s policy for dealing with position statements on controversial or sensitive matters. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the policy at the October 9 meeting.

S711 Program Planning

1. The draft proposal on program enhancement funds will be discussed at the October 9 Board meeting in Houston.

2. As a follow-up to discussions on the August 21, 2008 Board conference call, Randy Southard reported on the proposed Division S-5 lectureship endowment.

ACTION: It was moved by Diane Stott to approve the proposed Division S-5 lectureship endowment with the proviso that the primary fund raising responsibility resides with Division S-5, keeping Development Officer Paul Kamps informed of their activities. Details of how the endowment will be used should be worked out by a Division S-5 oversight committee. Seconded by Randy Southard. Carried.

Carolyn Olson will inform the Division leadership of the Board’s action.

3. Ellen Bergfeld informed the Board that reports from the hotels, convention center and Houston Convention and Visitor Bureau are that the storm cleanup is well underway and the city is eager and ready to host the Societies’ annual meeting. Staff continues to be in constant communication with contacts in Houston and the city is working hard to ensure the meeting takes place without a hitch.

Ellen Bergfeld reported on a conference call with GSA and the Gulf Coast Society to identify opportunities to decrease expenses if registration numbers do not reach projected benchmarks. Agreement was reached on several items where expenses could be reduced if registrations are below budgeted expectations.
S800 Scientific Affairs
The Board reviewed the following Policy for SSSA Sponsorship of Programs:

Frequently, SSSA is asked by other organizations to cosponsor a program or event. To ensure that the program or event meets the standards of the Soil Science Society of America for providing accurate, science-based knowledge, each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requesting organizations must provide in writing sufficient information on the organization, program, and proposed speakers to ensure that the event conforms to such standards. Decisions on co-sponsorship will be made by the Executive Committee and the Chief Executive Officer.

The following criteria will be used when deciding on co-sponsorship:
• The goals, objectives and outcomes of the proposed program should fit within the mission and strategic plan of SSSA.
• The program must address issues of importance and could range from local to international interest.
• Proposed speakers/leaders should be qualified so as to ensure program quality.
• Programs should be evaluated on overall merit – i.e., if the program provides a “unique opportunity” to promote soil science; has limited opportunities for other sponsorship; supports a specific activity in a venue that would not happen otherwise, etc.
• Cosponsored programs shall not financially obligate SSSA, unless requests for financial support are made to the Chief Executive Officer for action by the respective Executive Committees and ratification by the appropriate Boards of Directors.
• Co-sponsorship by the Societies should be recognized.
• The deadline for receipt of requests for monetary support shall be June 1 of the prior year of the occurrence in order for the requests to be considered and added to the following year’s budget.

ACTION: It was moved by Richard Dick to approve the Policy for SSSA Sponsorship of Programs. Seconded by Rattan Lal. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.