The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Rice. Board participants were:

Charles W. Rice, SSSA President  
Gary M. Pierzynski, SSSA President-Elect  
Nicholas B. Comerford, SSSA Past President  
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep.  
Donald L. Suarez, S-2 Board Rep  
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.  
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.  
Harold M. van Es, S-6 Board Rep.  
April Ulery, S-9 Board Rep.  
Robert C. Michitsch, Early Career Members Rep., ex officio  
Sally D. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio  
James G. Coors, ASF Rep., ex-officio  
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also participating:  
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer  
James Giese, Director of Science Communications  
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy  
Alexander Barton, Director of Business Development  
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

S003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by Dan Neary to approve the conference call agenda. Seconded by Harold van Es. Carried unanimously.

2. ACTION: It was moved by Harold van Es to approve the December 9, 2010 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Dan Sweeney. Carried unanimously.

3. Board members were requested to sign and return to Headquarters the Written Acceptance of Conflicts of Interest Policy for 2011.

4. Chuck Rice encouraged Board members to sign up for the soils blog, Twitter, and Facebook.

5. The next Board conference call is scheduled for February 17 at 1:30 PM Central Standard Time.

6. The Board will meet May 12-14 in Madison, WI. Headquarters will provide further details on arrival/departure dates, hotel accommodations, etc.
ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation

On the October 14, 2010 conference call the Board discussed ASF’s recommendation to consolidate the Beachell, Clark, Dixon, Johnson, Mott, Reed and Truog funds into a single Scholarship Fund and to consolidate the L.B. Nelson, L.R. Frederick and Bouyoucos funds to create an International Travel Study Fund. The Board expressed concerns about the recommendation to aggregate funds, particularly when many of the funds are currently SSSA funds. Concern was also expressed over the legal aspects vs. a marketing aspect. The Board requested further information on a future conference call as there was a not a clear understanding how the recommendations would work.

Jim Coors presented a progress report and clarified that ASF is not proposing that existing named funds be eliminated, but that the dollars be consolidated. ASF recommends that there should be three priority funds - the Scholarship Fund, the International Travel Study Fund, and the Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute Fund - that would be actively marketed to the Societies’ membership as well as corporate supporters. Since the first two funds would be new, ASF recommends the following:

- Identify the Beachell, Clark, Dixon, Johnson, Mott, Reed and Truog funds under a general “Scholarship Fund” that can be used to provide scholarships to undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students who are interested in pursuing careers in agronomy, crops or soils. Although individual account balances will be maintained, the combined account value is ~$225,000. Jim provided further details on how the Scholarship Fund would operate.

- Identify the L.B. Nelson, L.R. Fredrick and Bouyoucos funds under a general “International Travel Study Fund” that can be used to encourage international teaching experiences for students and instructors in agronomy, crops or soils. Although individual account balances will be maintained, the combined account value is ~$550,000. Jim provided further details on how the International Travel Study Fund would operate.

- Keep the Golden Opportunity Fund as a high priority fund in terms of promotion and soliciting additional funds for sustained growth. These scholarships would be for undergraduate students studying agronomy, crops or soils.

ASF also recommends that the current committees for the individual funds named above be combined into one committee for the Scholarship Fund and one committee for the International Travel Study Fund. Guidelines on how the committees would function will need to be established.

The Board again expressed concern about aggregating funds. In addition, as committees for the various awards and scholarships require specific expertise, consolidation of committees is not recommended.

Based on these discussions, Jim will recommend to the ASF Board that they not pursue the proposal to consolidate funds and combine committees. As ASF has recently taken action to establish a general Scholarship Fund and a general Travel Fund within the ASF portfolio, those two funds can be marketed to potential donors.

S201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws

A review of the process for voting on Division officers will be an agenda item for the February 17 Board conference call, as Marty Rabenhorst was not available to lead the discussion.
S201.4 Strategic Planning
1. Chuck Rice met with Ellen and Headquarters Department Directors in December to add his strategic planning goals to the 2010-2011 SSSA Action Plan. Board members were encouraged to review the Action Plan and provide feedback to Chuck.

2. Action was taken on the December 9, 2010 Board conference call to postpone voting on the 20 logo submissions pending further discussion on the January 20 conference call.

ACTION: It was moved by Nick Comerford that the Board rank the logos 1 to 20. In addition, each Board member should identify three elements they would like included in a logo. The top three logos will be given to the Executive Committee and Ellen to work with an artist to design a logo for SSSA. Seconded by Dan Neary. Carried unanimously.

Headquarters will provide the links to view and rank the logos. Comments received from the Board will be summarized and presented on the February 17 conference call. Based on the rankings, cash awards will be presented to the top three.

S211 Budget and Finance
Wes Meixelsperger reported a net income from operations for the eleven months ending November 30, 2010. The December 2010 statements will be posted at the end of January.

S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies and Practices
Sally Logsdon presented the following recommendation on procedure for appointment of the Editor-in-Chief and journal editors:

Before an Editor is reappointed to a second three-year term, he/she is asked by the appropriate society Editor-in-Chief if he/she agrees to serve another term. Technical Editors and others may be contacted to determine whether the current Editor has support to continue in the position and whether there are any concerns. The Editor-in-Chief then makes a recommendation to the Society Board of Directors, who make the final approval. If the Editor has completed two terms of service (six continuous years), does not desire to serve a second term, is terminated or non-renewed based upon action by the Board of Directors, or is unable to continue to serve for any reason, then an open call article will be published in CSA News. In some cases, an Interim Editor may be appointed by the Editor-in-Chief after approval of the Board of Directors. After the closing date published in the open call article, the Editor-in-Chief and the Executive Committee will review the applicants and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Before an Editor-in-Chief is reappointed to a second term, he/she is asked by the appropriate Society President if he/she agrees to serve another term. Editors and others may be contacted to determine whether the current Editor-in-Chief has support to continue in the position and whether there are any concerns. The President and Executive Committee of the Society will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors, who make the final approval. If the Editor-in-Chief has completed two terms of service (six continuous years), does not desire to serve a second term, is terminated or non-renewed based upon action by the Board of Directors, or is unable to continue to serve for any reason, then an open call article will be published in CSA News. In some cases, an Interim Editor-in-Chief may be appointed by the Society president after approval of the Board of Directors. After the closing date published in the open call article, the current Editor-in-Chief and the Executive Committee will review the applicants and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for final approval.

ACTION: It was moved by Harold van Es to approve the procedure for appointment of the Editor-in-Chief and journal editors. Seconded by April Ulery. Carried unanimously.
ACS536 Science Policy

1. The final draft of the Climate Change position paper should be completed by February 1.

2. The final draft of the Methodology of Carbon Credit white paper is expected in February.

3. The Ecosystems white paper is pending.

Meeting adjourned.