

Post-Secondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization Board Report for 2008-2009

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This was my last year on the PAS Board. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the AAAE representative on the board. Penny S. Haase-Wittler of Southern Arkansas University will now be the AAAE representative to the PAS board. Traditionally there would be overlap of the two board members at the Spring board meeting and convention. PAS chose not to do this, I believe this was done from a funding standpoint.

Over the past year there have been significant changes. In late 07 early 08 Eric Schilling resigned as PAS Executive Director to accept another position in industry. Jeff Papke assumed Eric's PAS and Collegiate FFA responsibilities. Approx. 8 years ago PAS began a closer relationship with National FFA at which time FFA had loaned PAS some money. This debt grew following some expensive conventions approx. 4-5 years ago. The board had set an ambitious plan to repay the debt and become debt free by this year at the conclusion of this year's convention. This did not take place. Over the past year it has been brought to the attention of the board while we thought the debt was decreasing the debt was actually increasing and presently stands at almost \$90,000! Jeff Papke believes this oversight was caused by the difference of budget years between PAS and National FFA (FFA is the administrator of PAS Accounts). PAS's budget year ended June 30th while National FFA's ends August 31st. The belief is that since there was a 2 month (July & August) difference between the ends of the year that two months of expenses were lost between the two organizations, and since National FFA over-saw the accounts when they saw a negative balance they would bring the PAS accounts back into balance as was required. Over the past two years PAS has been moving to align the PAS budget year with FFA and that should be completed this year.

With this in mind the PAS board discussed making some significant changes to PAS to clear the debt to National FFA.

1. The membership and chapter costs will be increasing. A committee of the board will be looking at a new fee structure over the next year to determine a way to increase the organizations revenue and be able to maintain a reasonable cost to members.
2. The board is also looking into going back to where the National Conferences are held and who hosts them as a possible way to reduce costs while possibly creating a fee structure to increase the national organizations revenue as well as the host state.
3. The possibility of combining our efforts to move the National Conference from March to meeting simultaneously with the International AgConnect Expo in January
- 4.

National Convention

The national convention this year was held in Hershey, PA. There were 474 Paid PAS members in attendance. Next year's convention will be held in St. Louis, MO.

Membership Information

Membership is up to 1334; There are presently 78 Chapters in 22 different States (not all chapters have members).

Last summer all Career Program Area coordinators met (via telephone conference) to discuss required changes to the CPA's and to begin to align the regulations of all the CPA's as best as possible. Following the changes there would not be any changes made to the CPA's for 3 years. This will help keep consistency instead of one CPA making a modification every year while some did not change. Changes included whether thank you letters were required or recommended by participants to the sponsors of the CPA to number of competitors allowed from a state. This raised concern by some advisors that it limited who they would bring to compete in college bowl.

Other Information

- PAS National Officers again attended training with MANRS in Indiana.
- PAS has completed the creation of an Agricultural Education CPA and has found an interested sponsor. Hopefully this will come online very soon.
- The PAS Board will meet again this coming August.

For further information please feel free to contact me at 616-994-4580 or via email at akantrov@msu.edu