The meeting was called to order by President James Coors. Those present were:

James G. Coors, CSSA President
Steven L. Fales, CSSA President-Elect
Kenneth J. Moore, CSSA Past President

Also present:
Ellen Bergfeld, Executive Vice President
Luther Smith, Associate Exec. Vice President & Executive Director of Certification Programs
Fran Katz, Director of Publications
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT and Operations
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions

ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation
The Executive Committee and representatives of the Agronomic Science Foundation Board of Trustees met during the March 7 ASA Executive Committee meeting in an effort to clarify the working relationship between the Societies and ASF. After extensive discussions, it was agreed that the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Presidents, along with representatives from the ASF Board of Trustees and legal counsel, meet and prepare a draft Memorandum of Understanding detailing the operating procedures and working relationship between the Societies and ASF.

ACS237 Membership and Society Identity
1. Susan Chapman reported on a proposed membership survey. The concept is to develop a base survey for benchmarking; a portion of the survey can be customized for CSSA, as appropriate. Areas of inquiry will potentially include: reasons for joining/renewing; ways in which members are involved; awareness/use/importance/satisfaction of key programs, products, and services; interest in/support for prospective program/product/service offerings; overall perceptions of the Society; bottom-line measures of membership value and renewal likelihood; and member suggestions for improving the value of membership. The results will be used in strategic planning, program/service improvement/development and for benchmarking. The survey will be conducted using a web-based instrument among a representative sample of Society members. Because there is significant membership overlap between ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, stratified sampling will be required to adequately represent all members while avoiding asking any single individual to complete more than one survey.

ACTION: By consensus, the Executive Committee agreed to pursue a membership survey.

2. Susan Chapman and Luther Smith presented a proposal to simplify the membership dues.

ACTION: It was moved, beginning in 2006, to merge the activity fee for one Society Active membership into the base dues and eliminate the journal/nonjournal subscription differential.
Those members and prospective members wishing to join an additional Society(ies) will add an additional $10 per Society. Seconded. Carried.

ACTION: It was moved, beginning in 2006, to eliminate the journal/nonjournal subscription differential for the Graduate Student Membership category. Seconded. Carried.

Dues allocation will be discussed at the August 2005 Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

ACTION: It was moved to implement in 2005, a one-year pilot of a dues waiver program for members unable to renew their membership due to economic hardships (currently unemployed or called to active military service). Seconded. Carried.

C300 Publications - General
1. Action was taken at the August 2004 Executive Committee meeting to implement a contract with Oxford University Press to publish the Society’s books, monographs, and special publications. Fran Katz reported that the Society and Oxford University Press were not able to agree on terms so there will not be a publishing alliance between the Society and Oxford University Press. Therefore, the Society will continue to publish books. The editors and editors-in-chief will meet with Headquarters staff in May to discuss how best to move book publishing forward. One option being considered is just-in-time publishing using DocU-Tech technology.

2. CSA News is currently published on a monthly basis. Susan Chapman presented a proposal to move to a publishing schedule of 10 times per year by combining the May and June and the July and August issues. Resources would be used internally to create additional public relations and communications programs.

ACTION: By consensus the Executive Committee agreed to put the proposal on hold and reassess it after the membership survey is conducted.

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the action taken in July 2002 to increase the fee charged for membership renewals received after March 1 from $5 to $25 to offset additional costs incurred for processing renewals after the March 1 date. Although no specific action was taken, it was agreed that $25 was not appropriate and perhaps a 10% late fee, plus shipping for any journal(s) ordered, would be more appropriate.

C400 Awards - General
ACTION: It was moved that members of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Executive Committees are not eligible to write letters of recommendation for award nominees for any ASA, CSSA, or SSSA Society award. Seconded. Carried.

C463 CSSA Presidential Award
ACTION: It was moved to present the 2005 Presidential Award to M.S. Swaminathan. Seconded. Carried.
ACS530 Early Career Members
The Executive Committee reviewed the mid-year informational report from the Early Career Members Committee. In an effort to create more opportunities for early career members the committee encourages the establishment of recognition awards for more early career scientists within the Society.

ACTION: It was moved that Lowell Moser, Chair of the ASA General Awards Committee, work with the Early Career Members Committee to assess development of an award for early career scientists. Seconded. Carried.

Lowell will present a report at the August 2005 Executive Committee meeting.

C711 Program Planning
1. The Executive Committee reviewed a special sessions fund proposal for annual meeting programs, events, and activities that are not arranged through traditional Divisions or committees.

ACTION: It was moved to approve the recommendation of adding $15,000 to the annual meeting budget as special sessions funds to be used in support of annual meeting programs, events, and activities that do not fit into a traditional Division’s program. Seconded. Carried.

2. Jim Coors provided an update on the CSSA Golden Opportunity Project which is being created to heighten student awareness of the profession and to inspire students to consider undergraduate/graduate studies and careers in crop science. It was agreed to ask the Agronomic Science Foundation to do a feasibility study regarding fund raising opportunities for the project.

ACS711.16 Change in Annual Meeting Format
Howard Skinner, Change in Annual Meeting Format Committee Chair, has requested Executive Committee feedback to help determine the future direction of the committee. It was recommended that the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Program Chairs and Howard Skinner schedule a conference call to follow up on the request.

Meeting adjourned.