The meeting was called to order by CSSA President Maria Gallo. Board members present were:

Maria Gallo, CSSA President
Joseph G. Lauer, CSSA Past President
Jeffrey F. Pedersen, C-1 Board Rep.
Emerson D. Nafziger, C-3 Board Rep.
Mary Beth Kirkham, C-4 Board Rep.
Michael D. Richardson, C-5 Board Rep.
David B. Baltensperger, C-8 Board Rep.
Michael A. Grusak, C-9 Board Rep.
E. Charles Brummer, CSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
James G. Coors, ASF Rep., ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio
Also present were:
Mark A. Brick, Incoming CSSA President-Elect
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
James Giese, Director of Science Communications
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT and Operations
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
Luther Smith, Director of Certification and Licensing Programs
Liz Gebhart, Managing Editor, *Crop Science, The Plant Genome*
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

Board members unable to attend:
Jeffrey J. Volenec, CSSA President-Elect
Randy Wells, C-2 Board Rep.
Daniel J. Undersander, C-6 Board Rep.
Henry T. Nguyen, C-7 Board Rep.

**C003 Board of Directors**
1. **ACTION:** It was moved by Mike Grusak to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Mike Richardson. Carried unanimously.

2. **ACTION:** It was moved by Mike Grusak to approve the April 5, 2011 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Joe Lauer. Carried unanimously.

3. The next Board conference call is scheduled for June 7 at 8:00 AM CDT.

**C005 Committees**
By consensus the Board agreed that the President-Elect work with Susan Chapman to evaluate and determine the viability of the numerous CSSA committees with a recommendation to the Board on what needs to be changed or eliminated. The Executive Committee will assist if a more detailed study is needed.
ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF)  
Jim Coors provided an update on ASF activities. The ASF Board is seeking opportunities for more visibility during the annual meeting and to interact with CSSA members particularly at the Awards Breakfast and Plenary Session. With input from the CSSA, ASA and SSSA Boards of Directors, ASF has approved the creation of two new unrestricted funds – General Scholarship Fund and International Study Travel Fund. The Golden Opportunity Scholars program will continue to be promoted. Six new members have recently been added to the ASF Board.

C201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws  
1. The O&P Committee previously considered adding members to the Board with desired qualifications/expertise but did not reach a consensus. Per the September 7, 2010 minutes, it was the decision of the Board at that time if there is a specific reason to change the composition of the Board, it can be considered again.

The Board discussed the desirability of adding an industry rep., an early career rep. and/or grad student rep. to the Board of Directors. It was noted that ASA has an Industry Board Rep. and an Early Career Board Rep.; SSSA has an Early Career Board Rep., as well as a Graduate Student/Early Career Member Advisory Committee to the Board. It was the consensus of the Board not to change the composition of the Board at this time.

2. Ellen provided an update on ACSESS which was formed in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) support organization to focus on operational/business activities. The ACSESS Board will engage in a strategic planning exercise in August.

C201.4 Strategic Planning  
The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan and the quarterly report addressing goals, tactics, milestones, and expected accomplishments for 2011. David Baltensperger suggested the Board target a fundable topic or two for the remainder of the year.

Goal A – CSSA will be the primary resource for leading edge programs, publications, meetings, and knowledge for its members and potential members. (Value proposition)  
Board members were encouraged to engage and generate ideas for CSA News content with a goal of one-third of the main articles focused on crops.

1. **Strategy A2 (High) - Enhance and expand electronic availability of content and information**  
Joe Lauer discussed the need for greater searchability of Society books and monographs and recommended a timeline and budget be prepared to convert past publications to XML and add them to MarkLogic. It was the consensus of the Board to request the ACS Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee become involved in this project.

Staff was encouraged to continue working on the journal websites. It was also recommended that guidelines on posting pdf’s of articles be sent to authors when they submit manuscripts and again when manuscripts are accepted.

2. **Strategy A3 (High) - Increase the scientific impact of Crop Science**  
Charlie Brummer suggested consideration of publishing Society position papers in *Crop Science*. He will discuss this with David Baltensperger and Shawn Kaeppler noting there is still a challenge for ARS employees to be named as authors on position papers.

Mike Grusak expressed C-9’s desire to get into Pub Med. Shawn Kaeppler is exploring this with staff.
3. **Strategy A6 (Medium) - Increase graduate student involvement in CSSA and its meetings**

One way to increase involvement and bring value to the annual meetings is through Divisional graduate student competitions. Maria will contact Divisions C-7, C-8, and C-9 and encourage them to initiate graduate student oral and/or poster competitions. David Baltensperger suggested these student competitions be added to the Strategic Plan quarterly report addressing goals, tactics, milestones, and expected accomplishments for 2011.

4. **Strategy A7 (High) – Recruit and engage more CSA members working in industry**

Mike Richardson reported that the task force tried unsuccessfully to organize a symposium at the 2010 annual meeting as several of the speakers were unable to attend. It was the consensus of the Board to encourage Mike to organize a working lunch at the annual meeting with industry representatives to discuss potential areas of cooperation as well as changes in the annual meeting structure that would be attractive to industry.

CSSA is a member of the Coalition for a Sustainable Agricultural Workforce (CSAW) composed of industry leaders and scientific societies. With federal support, CSAW proposes to develop new partnerships to attract students and train them in the agricultural sciences.

**Goal B - CSSA will be the powerful advocate for our science. (Influence)**

1. **Strategy B1 (High) - Increase competitive grant funding from federal agencies for crop science research in program areas that are of concern to Society members.** An expected accomplishment for this strategy is to write grants to support initiatives.

   **ACTION:** It was moved by David Baltensperger to develop a position description for a grant writer than can be presented at the next Board meeting. Seconded by Mike Richardson. Carried unanimously.

   Ellen will develop the position description for review on the June 7 Board conference call.

2. **Strategy B2 (High) - Engage in more face-to-face personal contacts with the under secretary of Ag, NIFA, NSF, DOE, OSTP, and Congress**

Karl encouraged Board members become Core Constituent Scientist Team (CCST) leaders and advocates for the CCST activities. (See also ACS536 Washington Presence on page 6 in these minutes.)

3. **Strategy B4 (High) - Develop strategies to get PIs of competitive grants to attend CSSA meetings (e.g., work with NSF, USDA)**

   There have been prior discussions with USDA/NIFA and NSF/BREAD for their reports to occur at the CSSA annual meeting. Maria wants to move forward on this strategy, including DOE, managed ecosystems, and others. She encouraged Board members to email her regarding programs they are aware of. Karl will follow up with NIFA regarding the annual PD meetings occurring prior to the CSSA annual meetings. Staff was encouraged to provide CSA News to Agency Heads that are invited to the annual meeting.

   Jeff Pedersen indicated there is a deficiency in metrics on the milestones and asked if there is a mechanism to determine the amount of dollars CSSA members are receiving through NIFA grants.
Goal C – CSSA will actively advance greater key stakeholder awareness of the importance of crop science to human health, prosperity, and security. (Outreach)

*Strategy C1 (High)* - Increase the Golden Opportunity Scholars program by increasing endowment support for the program and broadening the background of student participants (outside traditional agronomy, crops, soils majors and outside U.S.)

Maria encouraged a formal assessment and evaluation of the Golden Opportunity Scholars program to determine its effectiveness. For those scholars that are not members, the Board recommended they be given a 2-year membership in an effort to maintain contact.

Goal D – CSSA will develop collaborative relationships with other groups. (Collaboration)

*Strategy D2 (High)* - Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with ASA and SSSA by creating a task force to talk about synergies and unified activities

Although no task force has been appointed, Maria will follow up to ensure interaction with ASA and SSSA leadership.

**C201.4.13 Grand Challenges**

The Grand Challenge Statements were posted on the Society website as a WIKI to engage members but there has been little feedback. Division Board Reps. were encouraged to present the Grand Challenge Statements at their Division Business Meetings in San Antonio.

Mark Brick will encourage the Division Chairs consider the Grand Challenge Statements when developing plans for sessions/symposia at the 2012 annual meetings. A thematic approach to developing the program will be considered.

A function of the Science Policy Committee is to review and revise/update the Grand Challenges at 3-year intervals, thus a review will be done in 2012. There is also a need for metrics to measure progress.

Charlie Brummer suggested the Grand Challenges be published in *Crop Science* so they can be referenced. He will discuss this with Shawn Kaeppler.

**C211 Budget and Finance**

Action was taken at the June 5, 2007 Board meeting to use an open call process for the B&F Chair who would serve a 3-year term and serve as an ex-officio member of the Board. The position is appointed by the President upon confirmation of the Board. It was noted that this procedure does not preclude a current Board member from applying for the position. Emerson will complete his term as B&F Chair on December 31, 2011. A call for nominations will be placed in an upcoming issue of *CSA News*.

**C290 Headquarters**

Department Directors reported on staff activities, highlighting the following:

Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
- 2010 year-end membership was 5,343 – an increase of 660; 2011 renewals in line with 2010 except undergrads are down 6.8%
- Historical trends and membership demographics
- Corporate Membership program
- Membership/Certification Department merger and activities
• Strategic Plan activities – increase Grad Student involvement; increase Golden Opportunity Scholars endowment support and broaden background of participants; increase awareness of crop science as a career; K-12 educational outreach

Liz Gebhardt, Managing Editor, *Crop Science, The Plant Genome*, Publications Department
• Enhancing electronic availability of content by adding:
  • Smartphone app for journals
  • *CSA News* and *JNRLSE* to MarkLogic
• Working with Charlesworth (China), SWETS (India), and others (Brazil) to add more international subscribers
• Enhancing/expanding electronic availability:
  • MarkLogic server and software
  • Exploring mobile journal application
  • RSS feed of newly published journal issues
  • XML format
  • Electronic book site available in summer
• Goal: to be the “go-to” place for content

James Giese, Director of Science Communications
• *CSA News*
• Web content/E-communications
• Public relations/Media relations
• 2011 Goals
  • Features in *CSA News*
  • Interviews from Agency visits
  • Outreach/media relations based on position papers

Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
• Educating and Advocacy – Grand Challenges, CCST, etc.
• 1st Quarter Activities
  • Educating Policy and Science Communities
  • Advocating for crop science funding for FY 11, 12 and 13
• 2011 Expected Accomplishments
• Educational and Advocacy activities for May-December
• Regular FY2012 302(b) Suballocations

Ian Popkewitz, Department of IT and Operations
• Overview of daily operations
• Current project highlights
  • Smart Phone app for journals; more alerting/better organizing *Crop Science* TOC on electronic journal system; new bulk email system integrated with membership database
• Network configuration

Keith Schlesinger, Department of Meetings and Conventions
• Strategic Plan Goal A
  • Online recordings; Virtual posters; Meeting app for 2011
• Strategic Plan Goal D
  • ESA meetings 2006-2013
  • Plant and Animal Genome Conference in 2012
  • National Association of Plant Breeders in 2013
• Highlights for 2011 Annual Meeting in San Antonio
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
- Net income from operations for three months ending March 31, 2011
- Revenue sources – subscriptions, sales, publishing, advertising, meeting registrations, member dues, other
- Trends for subscriptions, publishing and member dues revenue
- Total revenue and income from annual meeting trends
- Operating income trends
- Assets/liabilities/equity
- Profit/loss by cost center

C300 Publications
David Baltensperger recommended the Society consider publishing a children’s book. Ideas can be forwarded to the ACS Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee.

C467 Chris Steigler Turfgrass Science Graduate Student Travel Award
The Board recommended further promotion of the Chris Steigler travel award with a request for contributions.

ACS531 Botanical Society of America’s Planting Science Program
Mike Grusak, the CSSA representative to the Planting Science Program, encouraged the program be promoted through *CSA News* before the teams are set up. In addition, graduate students who have signed on to be mentors are to receive complimentary membership in their societies.

ACS536 Washington Presence
1. ACTION: It was moved by David Baltensperger to establish an ad hoc committee to identify potential candidates for the position of NIFA Director being vacated by Roger Beachy. Candidate names will be submitted for approval on the June 7 Board conference call. Seconded by Joe Lauer. Carried unanimously.

Maria Gallo will appoint the ad hoc committee. David suggested this activity be added to the Strategic Plan quarterly report addressing goals, tactics, milestones, and expected accomplishments for 2011.

2. The Board discussed the value of the work being done by the Science Policy Office and the desire for additional investment in the program, perhaps shared with ASA and SSSA. Ellen and Karl will prepare a draft budget to expand the Science Policy Office.

C537 Science Policy Committee
1. Per discussions on the April 5, 2011 Board conference call, the position paper process, including mechanistic points as well as content, review and final approval, needs to be reviewed and clarified. The Board discussed the following process as presented by David Baltensperger:

   - Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) Science Policy Committee (Committee) member drafts a paragraph on a proposed position statement topic and sends to full Committee for input.
   - If approved by Committee, proposed position statement topic is placed in queue and Committee member proposing topic serves as Committee Liaison (Liaison) during development of the position statement. Date for beginning development of position statement will vary, depending on number of topics already in queue.
• Once a topic for position statement development is chosen by the Committee, the CSSA Science Policy Office (SPO), Science Communications (SC) and Liaison develop outline, goal, and key messages for position statement.

• Names of experts (member and non-member) recommended by Committee, Liaison, Rapid Response Team(s) (RRT), SPO, and Committee are compiled. Committee reviews names and selects those appropriate for Position Statement Work Group (Work Group).

• SPO contacts proposed Work Group members and seeks their participation. Final Work Group membership is shared with Committee.

• SPO and SC hold call with Work Group to discuss goal, key messages, background, approach and timeline for position statement development. Note: prior to call, SPO sends Work Group example of a completed position statement.

• Writing Group, chosen from Work Group, develops straw-man document which is shared with Work Group, SPO, and SC for comment.

• Work Group-approved draft sent to Committee for comment.

• Committee rejects or accepts draft. If rejected, Committee sends explanation and any recommendations to SPO and SC. SPO and SC report back to Work Group.

• SPO, SC, Writing Group and Work Group develop final draft with is sent to Committee for up or down vote.

• If approved, position statement sent to CSSA Board of Directors for up or down vote.

• Next steps are communications and outreach.

1 CSSA Division Protocol for Proposing Topics for Position Statements

• CSSA Division chair sends proposed position statement topic, making sure to include intended audience, and proposed writing team members, to Karl Glasener at: Kglasener@sciencesocieties.org.

• Committee reviews proposed position statement prior to next conference call and then, during the call, decides a) if topic is appropriate, b) if appropriate, possible timeline for completion, and c) development of writing team and final approval of writing team.

• Committee chair contacts Division Chair as soon as decision is made concerning proposed position statement topic, providing rough timeline for completion of position statement.

ACTION: It was moved by David Baltensperger to approve the Science Policy Committee’s recommendation for identifying topics and developing position statements. Carried unanimously.

David indicated that the Science Policy Committee still needs to address the procedure for responding to major criticisms – correcting and/or defending a position paper.

2. James Giese reviewed the various outreach efforts for the Crop Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Change Position Papers.

3. Tommy Carter has resigned from the Science Policy Committee due to his administrative duties. Maria Gallo will appoint another science policy expert to the committee.

ACS732 Annual Meetings Planning Committee

ACTION: Per the recommendation of the ACS732 Annual Meetings Planning Committee, it was moved by David Baltensperger to approve Phoenix as the location for the November 6-9, 2016 annual meeting. Seconded by Mike Richardson. Carried unanimously.

ACTION: It was moved by Mike Grusak to adjourn. Seconded by Emerson Naftziger. Carried unanimously.