The meeting was called to order by President Mark Brick. Board participants were:

Mark A. Brick, CSSA President
David D. Baltensperger, CSSA President-Elect
Jeffrey J. Volenec, CSSA Past President
Mohamed Mergoum, C-1 Board Rep.
Larry C. Purcell, C-2 Board Rep.
Kraig L. Roozeboom, C-3 Board Rep.
Mary Beth Kirkham, C-4 Board Rep.
Yoana C. Newman, C-6 Board Rep.
Mark E. Sorrells, C-7 Board Rep.
Michael A. Grusak, C-9 Board Rep.
E. Charles Brummer, CSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also participating:
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Karl Anderson, Director of Government Relations
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT and Operations
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

Board members unable to participate:
Eric Watkins, C-5 Board Rep.
Gary A. Pederson, C-8 Board Rep.
John L. Havlin, ASF Chair, ex-officio

C003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: Moved by Mike Grusak to approve the conference call agenda. Seconded by Mohamed Mergoum. Carried unanimously.

2. ACTION: Moved by Larry Purcell to approve the February 5, 2013 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Mohamed Mergoum. Carried unanimously.

3. The next Board call is scheduled for April 2, 9:00 AM CDT.

C211 Budget and Finance
Mary Beth’s term as Chair of the B&F Committee and as Div. C-4 Board Rep. ends December 31, 2013. Mark announced that Mary Beth has agreed to continue serving as Chair of the B&F Committee for 2014-2016. As such, she will be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Board during her 3-year term as B&F Chair.

C400 Awards
A concept paper introducing the Future of the Farm Prize was presented on the February 5 Board conference call. This will be a student-led, student-focused, annual national business plan prize to inspire, educate, and nurture the next generation of agriculture innovators and entrepreneurs, modeled after the MIT Clean Energy Prize. Ellen reported the ASA, SSSA, and ASF Boards have expressed support for the concept and recently took action to commit $10,000 each to support the prize. SSSA’s action included the caveat that ACSESS or SSSA become the focal
By committing dollars up front, it was anticipated the Societies and Foundation would have a seat at the table, however, per recent discussions with Molly Jahn, UW-Madison, the concept is moving forward as a UW centric activity to get it launched, with anticipated announcement of the prize in mid-April at a Washington, DC event.

Jeff encouraged Ellen to arrange a conference call between Society/ACSESS leadership and Molly Jahn to discuss the Societies’ potential role in the Future of the Farm Prize. Mark recommended a conference call of Society/ACSESS leadership prior to a call with Molly as he has several questions regarding the prize and the role of the Society.

C500 Profession Advancement
Susan updated the Board on the Crop Scientist Career Corp that will engage members to help tell the story of crop science and promote crop science as a career. Staff is working with Maria Gallo to draft guidelines for a joint CSSA-ASA committee that will be charged to refine the vision and determine the cost of developing the necessary tools to move the project forward. Committee guidelines should be drafted and approved by the CSSA and ASA Executive Committees in the next couple weeks, thus the committee should be appointed within a month.

C537 Science Policy Committee
1. Karl reported the germplasm position statement is nearing draft form and will be circulated to the Science Policy Committee for review and then to the Board. The committee is also considering a one-page document on nutrition that will move thru the process in the next several months.

2. A function of the Science Policy Committee is to review and revise/update the Grand Challenges at 3-year intervals, working in concert with the Board and Science Policy Office. The process was started last year but was not completed, therefore, Mark requested David follow-up with the Science Policy Committee Chair and provide an update on the April 2 Board conference call.

3. Mark reported that Jeff Volenec and Mike Grusak will serve as CSSA representatives on a task force to review the PCAST Agricultural Preparedness report. The task force will prioritize the six recommendations contained in the report, as well as offer suggestions for implementation of the recommendations.

C711 Program Planning
1. Action was taken on the February 5, 2013 Board conference call to continue the annual meeting early career registration rate for two more years and to define early career as a person that has achieved their terminal degree within the last seven years. Keith reported that of the 135 that registered for the 2012 annual meeting at the early career rate, 97 were already members of one or more of the Societies; 38 individuals joined as new members; 10 of the 38 joined CSSA. The Board requested Keith also provide data on whether those using the early career rate had attended previous annual meetings and whether they attend subsequent meetings.

2. Ellen reported that staff will review the 2018 annual meeting survey results and provide a report on the April 2 Board conference call.

ACTION: Moved by Mike Grusak to adjourn. Seconded by David Baltensperger. Carried unanimously.