

COMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITIES AND STATUS OF BLACKS
IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
(COSBAE)

WORKING RULES

Working Rule 1: Purpose, membership, Affiliation, and Meetings.

- 1.1 Purpose: The purpose of COSBAE is to promote the welfare of black Agricultural economists by representing their interests within the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) and by engaging in activities which will encourage the professional advancement of black agricultural economists.
- 1.2 Membership: Membership is extended to all member of AAEA who wish to promote this purpose. Membership information may be obtained from the AAEA Business Office or the COSBAE Membership Chairman.
- 1.3 Affiliation: The Board of COSBAE is a Standing Committee of the AAEA (see AAEA “Sections”)
- 1.4 Meetings: Meetings of the membership are held at AAEA and SAAS annual meetings.

Working Rule 2: Board Members, Powers and Duties of the Board, Nominations and Elections to the Board.

- 2.1 Board Members – The Board manages the affairs and activities of COSBAE. The Board is officially appointed by the President of the AAEA. The Board consists of the following members: the current chairperson, the past chairperson, the vice-chairperson, four members-at-large elected from the membership, and a representative of the AAEA Board. Board members must be COSBAE.
- 2.2 Powers and Duties of the Board – The chairperson of the Board leads the Management of COSBAE and brings issues to the Board for discussion. The Chairperson is the official contact and spokesperson of COSBAE to the AAEA Board and to the membership at large. The chairperson has the power to define and appoint subcommittee members as deemed necessary, and to add and dissolve standing subcommittees. Board members advise and assist the chairperson. The Board decides policy issues.
- 2.3 General Procedures of Operation of the Board – General procedures of operation of the Board are consistent with those outlined in the AAEA’s Bylaws and Constitution. At any Board meeting, a majority of Board members constitutes a quorum. When a quorum is present, the act of a majority of Board embers constitutes an act of the Board. Actions may be decided by telephone when a board meting is not feasible, if there is an agreement of a majority of the Board.

- 2.4 Nominations and Elections to the Board.
- 2.5 Nominations to the Board – The elections subcommittee solicits names of potential nominees for the vice-chairperson and at-large positions. Names of potential nominees are to be solicited from the membership in the newsletter preceding the ballot (typically in the winter) or by other means if necessary. A minimum of two nominees per position is required.
- 2.6 Elections to the Board – Board members are elected by mail ballot of the membership. The ballot is contained in a spring newsletter. The vice-chairperson is elected every year and becomes chairperson at the AAEA annual meetings during the following year. After a one-year term, the chairperson serves as past-chair for one year. If the chair becomes vacant during the course of the year, the vice-chairperson succeeds to that office. The four at-large members serve two-years terms that began at the AAEA annual meetings. Two at-large members are elected each year so that terms are staggered.

Working Rule 3: Permanent and Standing Subcommittees.

- 3.1 Permanent Subcommittees – The permanent subcommittees and their duties are:

Elections: The Elections Subcommittee compiles the list of nominees for the Board; tabulates the ballot; notifies the Board, the candidates, and the newsletter editor(s) of the election outcome; and addresses election procedures.

Finance: The Finance Subcommittee proposes the budget, prepares financial statements, and addresses fundraising issues.

Membership: The Membership Subcommittee provides membership services, keeps a roster of members, and addressed the recruitment of new members.

Newsletter: The chairperson (or chairpersons) of the Newsletter Subcommittee is (are) the editor(s) of the newsletter. Other subcommittee members provide assistance in the planning and production of the newsletter.

- 3.2 Standing Committees – Standing subcommittees may be at any time added or dissolved by the chairperson. The standing committees and their duties are:

Arrangements: The Arrangements Subcommittee arranges meetings, luncheons, and social gatherings at the AAEA annual meetings.

Employment: The Employment Subcommittee works to improve employment opportunities for black agricultural economists by identifying such opportunities and disseminating information (includes notifying the newsletter editor(s) of any immediate openings).

Graduate Students: The Graduate Students Subcommittee identifies and addressed the particular needs of graduate student members and strives to increase the involvement of graduate students in the AAEA.

Planning: The Planning Subcommittee helps identify and evaluate emerging issues relevant to the activities and purpose of COSBAE.

Professional Activities: The Professional Activities Subcommittee plans, encourages, and coordinates professional activities at the AAEA annual meetings. The subcommittee provides statistical information as needed on the status of black in the profession.

Research: The Research Subcommittee promotes the role of blacks in the research community by organizing sessions at the AAEA annual meetings, and by carrying out other activities relevant to the purpose of the sub committee.