

American Economic Association  
Committee on Economic Education

Minutes of Meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022

Virtual meeting

Members present: KimMarie McGoldrick (chair), Carlos Asarta, Rita Balaban, Allen Goodman, Andrew Hill, James Hornsten, Gail Hoyt, John List, James Peyton, Wendy Stock

Absent: Paul Grimes, Sam Allgood (ex officio)

Guests: Avi Cohen and Tisha Emerson

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

1. Membership

This was the last meeting for Carlos Asarta and Allen Goodman. This was the first meeting for Rita Balaban, Andrew Hill, and Gail Hoyt as members. The president of the AEA approved the membership of Avi Cohen and Tisha Emerson, and a second term for James Peyton. Their first meeting will be the 2023 meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes and Annual Report

Minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2021 (held virtually) and AEA-CEE Report for 2021 were approved.

3. Annual Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE)

The 2021 CTREE conference was held virtually, June 2-4. Despite the additional burdens of the pandemic, the conference submission rate was robust and the conference organizing committee was able to coordinate a full program of paper presentations, panels, and workshops. Attendance at the 2021 conference exceeded numbers in all previous years.

The 2022 CTREE conference will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago, June 1-3. Plenary speakers include Lisa Cook (Michigan State University) and Nancy Rose (MIT). We are pleased that the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank will co-sponsor the conference, providing a dinner and a keynote speaker (TBA). The conference organizing committee has completed their initial review of submissions and while the submission rates were down slightly from previous years the quality continues to be high. They are on track to send out acceptance/rejection notifications by January 15. A final decision on whether the 2022 conference will be face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual will be finalized early this spring. Last year's decision to increase registration and publisher fees will be revisited once the conference format decision is finalized.

4. Special projects

i. **Expanding Diversity in Undergraduate Classes with Advancements in (the) Teaching (of) Economics (EDUCATE) Workshop, January 5-7, 2021.**

Over 100 applications were received for this 25-participant pilot program. This teacher training workshop was designed to provide opportunities for instructors of introductory courses to take part in course design activities and experience pedagogical strategies that will engage all of the students they teach. The workshop began with an exploration of how to construct learning objectives and utilize them in the backwards course design process. Participants were then introduced to pedagogical practices that are collaborative and inclusive including cooperative learning, engaging lectures, data integration and classroom experiments. To further support development and implementation, participants were paired with a buddy (overseen by a mentor) with the express goal of supporting the enhancement of teaching practices after the workshop has concluded. Participants were provided opportunities to share their work at the 2022 ASSA meetings.

The AEA Executive Committee agreed last spring to continue at least two more years of funding for EDUCATE. Several changes will be made to the participation requirements, timing, and format of the 2022 EDUCATE. First, the requirement that applicants must be scheduled to teach introductory microeconomics, macroeconomics, or a combined course has been eliminated. The hope is to broaden participation. Second, EDUCATE will now be held after the Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE) instead of after the ASSA meetings. The time after the ASSA meetings often conflicts with the start of the semester. In addition, holding EDUCATE just before the summer break will make it easier for participants to work on what they have learned before returning to the classroom. Third, EDUCATE will be

- held in-person (unless circumstances require a change). Fourth, participants of the first EDUCATE requested the opportunity to learn more about how to cover and discuss difficult topics in the classroom. To this end, we have invited Maria Mora (University of Missouri – St. Louis) and Rhonda Sharpe (WISER) to speak to participants. In addition to the participation of Mora and Sharpe, the facilitators for the 2022 EDUCATE are Sam Allgood, Tisha Emerson, Gail Hoyt, Gerald Daniels, and KimMarie McGoldrick. The application portal will open in February 2022.
- ii. Ongoing revisions to CEE website and Resources for Educators section of AEA site. The Committee continues to revise and enhance the content of such pages. Still in progress: Teaching Resources, Resources for New Faculty, DEI Resources.
  - iii. Creating a website for community college faculty interests. Based on last year’s work by Carlos Asarta and James Peyton to identify resources to populate on the AEA-CEE website in support of community college faculty, a landing page for community college faculty was developed. The Committee continues efforts to understand the needs of this group and will enhance these pages as it identifies additional needs (more below).
5. Brief Reports on 2021 AEA-CEE paper sessions and events at the virtual ASSA meetings
    - a. “If You Only Had Two Hours- Best Advice for New Instructors of Economics” was organized and presided over by Gail Hoyt and Roisin O’Sullivan. The session was attended by 70-75.
    - b. “Why Are Women and Minorities Less Likely to Choose Economics and STEM Majors/Fields?” was organized and presided over by John A. List. The session was attended by 80-85.
    - c. “Economic Education Innovations: EDUCATE Program Participants” was organized by Sam Allgood and KimMarie McGoldrick and presided over by KimMarie McGoldrick. The session was attended by 40-45.
    - d. “Targeting Economic Literacy: What Should Go into the Only Economics Course Students Will Ever Take?” was organized and presided over by Wendy Stock. The session was attended by 55-60.
    - e. “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Economics Curriculum” was organized by Paul Grimes and presided over by Carlos Asarta. The session was attended by 70-75.
    - f. “Teaching Beyond COVID: Enduring Lessons Learned” was organized by Sam Allgood and KimMarie McGoldrick and presided over by KimMarie McGoldrick. The session was attended by 40-45.
    - g. The annual Poster Session, chaired by Rita Balaban, UNC-Chapel Hill, this year featured 20 posters. Session attendance is not available as the poster session was open throughout the meetings.
    - h. Sam Allgood attended the Breakfast for Department Chairs and shared an overview of the activities of the CEE, highlighting the CTREE conference, EDUCATE workshop and sessions at the ASSA meetings.
  6. Coordinated activities with the AEA Task Force on Outreach to High School and Undergraduate Students in Economics (Chaired by Sam Allgood with KimMarie McGoldrick serving as a member).
    - a. **Expanding Diversity in Undergraduate Classes with Advancements in (the) Teaching (of) Economics (EDUCATE) Program.** See above.
    - b. Community College Outreach: In the first quarter of 2020, members of the Committee (KimMarie McGoldrick and James Peyton) in conjunction with members of the Task Force (Sam Allgood) began working with Dr. Mark Maier (Glendale Community College) on how best to serve this community. The decision was made to first to learn more about what the economics classroom looks like at community colleges. An upfront difficulty, however, is the ability to identify and communicate with economics instructors at these institutions. Using a sample of convenience compiled by Mark Maier for another purpose, we tested a survey instrument designed to gauge community college faculty’s understanding of existing AEA resources and their need for additional resources. Unfortunately, the response rate was too low to generate useful results. At the June 2021 CTREE conference, Sam Allgood and KimMarie McGoldrick approached publishers to determine if a survey of their community college faculty might serve their needs as well as those of the Task Force. Representatives from McGraw-Hill, MacMillan, Norton, and Pearson ultimately agreed to distribute a survey to the community college faculty in their data bases. We are currently in the process of determining how many faculty were targeted to estimate the response rate. Unfortunately, with only 71 responses received it is not clear we will have enough information to suggest a viable path forward on this outreach project.

In January 2023, Sam Allgood, KimMarie McGoldrick and James Peyton will participate in a workshop on Strengthening Engagement between Disciplinary Societies and Community Colleges. The goals of this workshop are aligned with the combined efforts of the Task Force and the Committee to: strengthen partnerships of community colleges and disciplinary societies with special attention to improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the professions.

- c. High School Outreach: Allgood and McGoldrick spoke with Andrew Hill (Philadelphia Federal Reserve, AEA-CEE) and Mary Suiter (St. Louis Federal Reserve) regarding further outreach and training of pre-college economics teachers. Our conversations revealed that the Federal Reserve was already working to develop a teacher training program. The pandemic has delayed the beginning of the Feds program. At this time, other efforts to enhance the high school experience in terms of economics are being identified to see how they might align with the shared goals of the Task Force and the CEE. Potential future collaborations and independent efforts at this level are being explored.
- d. Curriculum: At the end of 2020, a survey of departments that elicited responses about any efforts to change the economics curriculum to appeal to underrepresented students was conducted. Fifty-five departments reported implementing curricular change for this purpose. All departments who voluntarily provided contact information were contacted and we learned that most departments had not completed a systematic evaluation of the impact of their changes on underrepresented students. We followed up this effort by sending a call out to recent CTREE participants to encourage submission of assignments, activities or discussion topics that supported diversity, equity, and inclusion in introductory economics classes. A session for the 2023 ASSA meetings that highlights what was learned from the survey and to share some of these specific submissions is under construction.

7. Annual Report from the *Journal of Economic Education (JEE)*

KimMarie McGoldrick, co-editor, shared the *Journal* report and reaffirmed the commitment of the *Journal* as a co-sponsor of CTREE. The *Journal* also continues to sponsor a session at the AEA meetings which is subsequently published as a symposium.

8. Brief Reports on plans/assignments for the 2023 AEA meetings (January 6-8, New Orleans):

(a) AEA Proceedings (McGoldrick): (b) Annual poster session on innovative teaching methods (Balaban); (c) TBA (Marshall): (d) Ancillary Department Programs (Hoyt): (e) Efficient and Effective New Course Preparation (Stock): (f) JEE session: Crisis Related Teaching (organized by Charlie Holt) (g) Outreach Task force, curriculum project (Allgood).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

KimMarie McGoldrick, Chair