

Summary of the AFA Board Meeting

January 5, 2018

Philadelphia, PA

The Board of Directors of the American Finance Association met at the Philadelphia Loews on January 5, 2018. This report summarizes the non-routine decisions and reports made at the meeting.

1. The new AFA website recently launched in December 2017 with a major goal of improving membership processes. The launch experienced several delays and website functionality will continue to be developed. A major advancement is the data integration and availability of the Worldwide Directory of Finance Faculty information. The board discussed the goals of the website and overall digital presence and strategy. AFA members are encouraged to provide feedback and comments as the new website can be considered a “work in progress.”
2. The board discussed the AEA model of allowing submission of complete sessions. President-Elect DeMarzo reported that for 2018, session chairs were permitted to solicit papers and there were seven solicited papers on the program indicating that most session chairs were able to build a cohesive session with the papers originally submitted.
3. This year the Travel Grants were awarded in honor of Stephen Ross.
4. AFFECT has been gathering data on women in the profession and has developed two surveys – a departmental survey and a climate survey. President Scharfstein asked the board to review the surveys and provide comments.
5. The board discussed collaboration with the CFA Institute. The AFA is working with Wiley to create an Associate Membership level which would be made available to the 130,000 CFA members for a small fee and would provide access to the JF.