

Breakout Group 1
Facilitator: Jim Underwood
Scribe: Paula Mooney

Group Members: Ruth Bartlett, Mike Cauley, Allen Poole, Mike Verner, Scott Voynich, Bobby Whitmire

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Annual meeting should immediately be followed by the Council Meeting to remove repetition.
- It saves money combining the meetings

Other Ideas (consensus):

- Ask Council members for commitment to attend to Council Meetings.
- Like Callaway Gardens and Brasstown Valley as locations for meetings
- Spring Council could be in Macon as a “1-day” meeting, then have convention which could be a focus on awards, recognition/celebration and networking with Annual Business Meeting

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
- Suitable for ratification because it is an effective and efficient manner, but it misses the tone/intensity.
 - It loses community and discussion.
 - Under time constraints it is okay, but not the “standard operating” procedure.
 - Need to remind folks of our role in ratifying the budget.
 - It was an adequate method for ratifying the budget.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 6

No – 1

- Don't want to “legislate” the process.
- Concern related to “appearance” when there are many willing to serve.
- Definitely wouldn't want to change someone's role if job change occurred after member was put on Board.

Breakout Group 2
Facilitator: Bill Schneider
Scribe: Stewart Carlin

Group Members: Harvey Tarpley, John Cook

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

Let's continue to give it a try. However, we see the following changes:

- Lots of redundant information
- Council Meeting – Very similar to Annual Business Meeting
- If we have a Convention far away (like the Bahamas) does this preclude the GSCPA from combining these meetings?
- Confusion on role Past Presidents play in/on Council
- Past Presidents would like to be scattered among the group not segregated.

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
- Not well attended. Only 40 people on the webcast. Only few questions on budget. Not the right forum if you have budget issues or a dues increase.
 - Information was adequate! Scotty Jones did a GREAT job!
 - Change fiscal year to June 30? Make a video presentation (like You Tube) and have people look at it at their leisure during a period of up to 14-21 days. People then could register their vote after viewing the budget video presentation.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Harvey – Yes
Dr. Cook – Yes
Bill – No
Stewart – No

Breakout Group 3

Facilitator: Colin Blalock

Scribe: Deborah Reeder

Group Members: Jerry Maxwell, Brad Reeder, Wayne Nix, Pam Clinard, Russ Goldman, Kara Baker

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Avoid repetition of reports, so combine the meetings if possible and continue.
- Dinner banquet should be night before, Annual meeting the next morning followed immediately by Council.
- Confusing on what to attend/not attend if Council only.

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
1. Yes
 2. Yes, the information is adequate if sent out beforehand with extensive explanation. Overall, group was pleased with process. Liked questions and ability to ask.
 3. Send on demand first, send out by email and then do live to ask questions. Have members send in questions ahead of time and address them in the live webcast to let members think about ahead of time. Also gives more people access to webcast.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 1

No – 7

Like diversity, should have enough in membership to not have two members from the same company serving at the same time. It can be a slippery slope.

Breakout Group 4
Facilitator: Marlan Nichols
Scribe: Elizabeth Kistler

Group Members: Phil Alday, Scott Collins, Tom Harrison, Emilie McLaughlin, Denise O'Connell, Geoff Rhines

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- One meeting for both the Annual and Spring Council meetings.
- Business first and then council need to be combined into one session.
- The Educational Foundation was affected, less foundation people in attendance and Educator of the Year Award shifted to Fall.
- Cost savings were achieved by combining the two.
- Only leaves one meeting a year that you can attend if you can't make it to the combined meeting.
- What are the rules about attending v. voting at Annual Meeting and Council Meeting?

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
1. Process was successful. Get more familiar with discussion platforms. This budget was not controversial, but some might be. For future, questions would need to be dealt with in a more open manner.
 - For long distance people, it was appreciated.
 - Only time will tell if Q&A piece works well.
 - For people watching it after the fact, how do they ask questions?
 - If ratification was not achieved another session would need to be called live if needed.
 - Some info (bylaw changes) could be offered ahead of time.
 - Generally agree that webcast was a success.
 - Were there enough people for a quorum?
2. Notice of confirmation should be sent ahead of time with the ability to alter your registration as needed.
3. Suggested improvements are:
 - Offer multiple dates for the webcast prior to scheduling.
 - Archive the webcast with comments after the meeting.
 - Set the date far enough in advance so that people can schedule around it.
 - Present it with allowable follow up time and then the vote.
 - Adjust the delay between the speaker and the screen. Speaker didn't seem to be driving.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 3

No – 2

Abstain - 1

Questioning the ethical issue at hand – controversial issues could be a problem.
Foundation members cannot cross populate.

Breakout Group 5

Facilitator: Denise Grove

Scribe: Don Cook

Group Members: Lisa Conti-Bacon, Bill Harshman, Martha Merritt, Martha O'Brien, Donnie Roland, Debbie Thaw, Jennifer Birtz

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Does not work with Educator's schedule
- Business meetings should be conducted on Sunday instead of Monday.
- Allows people opportunity to get out if they don't want to attend the family trip portion.
- No perfect scenario.
- Do both webcast and in-person (attendance will drop, but...)

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
2. Was the information provided adequate?
3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?

- Information was adequate
- Suggested improvements are:
 - Email questions prior to webcast being held.
 - Would like to see in person attendance as an option.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 5

No – 2

- The Society has 11,000 members and only 1% of the members are active. The Society should be able to draw Board members from different firms.
- What about big companies with separate offices?
- Nominating committee looks at so much as far as they do diversity.

Breakout Group 6

Facilitator: Larry Cohen

Scribe: Jennifer Poff

Group Members: Nina Daigle, Wendy Gates, John Masters, Connie Tritt, Lydia Rosencrants, Abbie Gail Parham, Jim Hart

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Combining the meetings is cost effective and a better format in general. Council should be held in the morning because it is easier for those who are not staying for the convention to go home.
- Council meeting should be held on the first or last day. Maybe stretch convention through until Thursday to allow an extra day for Council.
- Council members shouldn't have to pay for dinner. It should be included like it is for the other meetings. The Dinner was too expensive. If members had to pay, they could possibly pay \$50 or \$60, but not \$90.
- Graphs and other media should be used to present information to Council instead of dry numbers on a plain piece of paper.
- Could possibly break the Council Meeting back out from Convention to ratify the budget, but would suggest hosting it in Atlanta either at a location off site or in the Society offices.

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
1. Webcast is a somewhat controversial method for ratifying the budget. If members had a lot of questions about the budget like they did at the Chattanooga meeting it could be a problem to do it as a web cast.
 2. Advance emails were adequate.
 3. Some group members felt that more notice was needed on the webcast and others felt there was enough notice. Meetings should be planned a year in advance and an option should be given for both in person and webcast attendance.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

No – 7 (entire group)

- Maybe if the Society had a larger Board of Directors it would be okay to have a few people from the same firm, but the Board is currently too small for it to work.
- If you have multiple people from the same firm they may have their own agenda and they would become too biased and therefore exert too much influence on some Board decisions.
- Connections are too close to work and if two people from the same firm came on the Board and one person had a higher position than the other it could affect the opinion of the person in the lower position.
- Discussed having two people from the same chapter serve and group felt there wasn't as much impact with that as two people from the same firm.
- Board should pass resolution to prevent two members of the same firm from serving on the Board at the same time.

Breakout Group 7
Facilitator: Darrell Thaw
Scribe: Walt Bryde

Group Members: Harold Davis, Michael Broughton, Rich Hlozek, Brian Rutledge, Chris Miller, Brandon Verner

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Too much repetition in reports
- Does cost savings pass onto the members
- What happened to the Hospitality Suite (cost savings?)
- Need more input from members
- Need more time to socialize

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
2. Was the information provided adequate?
3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
 - Schedule for first thing in the morning or at the end of the day
 - Need questions to be anonymous

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 4

No – 4

Increase number of board members to 21 people.

Breakout Group 8

Facilitator: Bo Jackson

Scribe: Terry Parker

Group Members: Jenny Barber, Brad Dickson, Ben Lee, Jack Milner, Emily Sanders, Margaret Waldrep

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Works well, very efficient.
- Less costly to the Society
- Creates redundancy
- Order of events: Council should be either first on Monday or Sunday PM. Chairman's dinner to follow on Sunday PM.
- Appearance of more members in attendance total when you combine convention and council.
- For year with away conventions you will need to split with two meeting dates.

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

1. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
2. Was the information provided adequate?
3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?

- Went well and well run.
- Webcast should only be used for budget.
- Good information presented.
- Need better graphics and sound – more integrated webcast
- May have inhibited questions and comments. Need face to face exchange of ideas and comments

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 5 (all metro Atlanta members)

No – 3 (all outside metro Atlanta members)

Much discussion!

Breakout Group 9

Facilitator: Joe Spradlin

Scribe: Alyssa Belcher

Group Members: John Bingham, James Freeman, Tracy Mathews, Tim Minster, Tracy Sharkey

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Like new format. Too hard to take off time for Fall Council, Spring Council and Convention.
- Some people would prefer to combine Annual Meeting and Council Meeting and just have one meeting in the morning.
- If they are combined, then the convention needs to be at a close location – Hilton Head, Amelia Island, etc. NOT the Caribbean.
- Meeting seemed to have two treasurers' reports, etc.
- Many people did not print CPE materials in advance.

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

The Society does not intend for webcasts to be used as a form for all meetings of Council. Please comment on the following:

4. Is the webcast method suitable for ratification of the budget under time constraints?
5. Was the information provided adequate?
6. What improvements would you suggest for this process?

This format worked well. No suggestions for improvement.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes – 6

All members in the group agreed that 2 members of the same firm or organization could serve on the board, but that guidelines need to be created so that no firm has a majority control of the board at any time. The group also agreed there could be a burden on a firm to allow multiple members to serve on the board at the same time and that no more than 3 firms should have 2 members on the Board at a time.

Breakout Group 10

Facilitator: Lowell Mooney

Scribe: Rodney Chandler

Group Members: Todd Giddens, Dick Negus, Perry Rountree, Mike Skinner, Bruce Wood, Jennifer Wilson

Question 1: Regarding the format of the combining of the Annual Convention/Spring Leadership Council Meeting, is this new format an effective way of accomplishing the business of the GSCPA?

- Mixed emotions about separate or combined meeting. Slight preference for combined meeting, especially if meeting is in a “driving distance” location.
- If combined meetings are held, much could be done to eliminate duplicated content offered at both the annual meeting and council meeting. If a combined annual/council meeting:
 1. Perhaps just one big gathering – both meetings at the same time.
 2. Meetings held consecutively, instead of being separated by CPE

Question 2: In order to complete ratification of the new 2010-2011 budget by June 1, a webcast was held in May because the council meeting would not be held until June 14. The webcast included online materials and online voting procedure.

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 2. Was the information provided adequate?
 3. What improvements would you suggest for this process?
-
1. Webcast NOT suitable for budget meetings. Strong feeling that the webcast presentation allowed for only one way communication, and significantly reduced the ability to ask questions and challenge presenters. Group was unanimous.
 2. Information provided was okay.
 3. If timing is an issue, why not change the Society’s fiscal year to 6/30 instead of 5/31.

Question 3: Should two members of the same firm/organization be allowed to serve on the Board at the same time?

Yes - 6

No - 2

Group was more concerned that members within the same firm location not serve at the same time, but thought that 2 members from the same firm, but work at different locations was okay.