

2020 Summer Inservice  
Committee Minutes



**Committee: SAE**  
**Chair: Tami Frank**

**Committee Members Present:** Tami Frank, Kala Hernandez, Brett Kindall, Abigail Heikes, Amy Nichols, Lex Godfrey, Tom Jacobsen and Trent Van Leuven

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Lucas Barnett

**Secretary:** Kala Hernandez

**Business:**

- A. State Star Battery and Proficiency Applications (Lex will report from special committee work.)**
  
- B. State Degree Reform**
  - a. Discussed issues and across the state of Idaho with State Degree approval processes and the lack of uniformity and integrity in the process. Further discussed National FFA trends and how other states handle State degree review and approval.**
  - b. Discussed with State degree the need to improve the process for proficiency, nat chap, stars and American degrees.**
  - c. Was able, with permission, to look at the direction other states have gone to move to online approvals at the district and state level.**
  
- C.**
  - a. Looked at the Idaho FFA Constitution and discussed the need to return to the State Degree process that is listed in the Constitution under Article 5 section E. (And further explained in the Bylaws, Article 7, sections E and F)**

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- b. Idaho FFA Constitution, Article 5 Section E reads as follows:  
*“The Idaho Association shall be entitled to elect those qualified. Written records of achievement verified by the local advisor shall be submitted to district advisor on or before the date set by the district advisor. The district advisor in conjunction with the district president shall appoint a district selection committee to review the records, prepare briefs of the activities of the successful candidates, and submit recommendations to the state selection committee. The state selection committee shall be appointed by the state advisor and shall submit recommendations of worthy candidates to the delegates at the next annual leadership conference. The delegates shall elect the candidates found most worthy to the State FFA Degree.”*

D. Formulated motions to the assembly for vote.

- a. We move that ALL Idaho FFA return to following the State Degree review and approval process for State Degrees as outlined in the Idaho FFA Constitution under Article 5, Section E.
- i. **Discussion: It continues to be an issue across the state of Idaho to maintain consistency and integrity in the State Degree approval process in the ten districts.**
  - ii. **Teacher turn-over and use of AET for the application process has left many advisors unsure of grading processes.**
  - iii. **There is a serious need for consistency between districts for approval of State degrees to help ensure that the State Degree is an award with meaning and meets high expectations.**
- b. We move that Idaho FFA contract annually with the AET for Regional Scoring and Review Process of Degree and Awards.
- i. **As a group we see no need to reinvent the wheel to accomplish what other states have already done.**
  - ii. **AET is an available tool that means we do not need to learn something new.**
  - iii. **National FFA is using the online grading format for National level degrees and awards.**
  - iv. **We have a strong relationship with AET and a knowledgeable resource in Lex Godfrey.**
  - v. **Other states have already added this feature for use and it has been very successful. It is very user friendly and training**

- would be available with the ability to calibrate scoring for consistency across the state.
- vi. Moving to an online scoring system for applications will allow for applications to be shared between districts and states for unbiased critiquing and cut down on the need for in person sifting and save time.
  - vii. Using this system will protect the integrity of the State Degree process and provide FFA members and advisors with constructive and correctable feedback.
- c. We move that the first item on the online Idaho State degree checklist for review and approval be; that ALL SAE's included in the application be defined as agriculture based according to proficiency descriptions.
- i. In a deliberate move to better prepare our members for their American Degree, we need to better define what is allowable as a degree worthy SAE. The National FFA has become more strict on the definition of agricultural based SAE's that are appropriate for awarding degrees at the state and national level and we need to meet those standards as a state.
  - ii. There appears to be a great deal of confusion as to what is an awardable SAE and what isn't. The bar has been set fairly high by National FFA, it is in the best interest of our members to keep our bar at least as high.
  - iii. Under the proficiency descriptions, what is and what isn't considered an agricultural based SAE is clearly defined. Using these descriptions will clear up most questions and better prepare our FFA members for the American Degree Application AND approval process.
- d. We move that state Proficiency and state Star interviews be scored by rubric and weighted so that the total score for the interview is 30 points and the application will remain at 100 points for a total of 130 points.
- i. We would like to provide direction to clean up the interview process for our Proficiency and Star State winners. And allow for consistency and transparency.
  - ii. We feel that the interview process SHOULD NOT independently overturn the application review and scoring process. With moving to an online system, we feel that the scoring will be more consistent and accurate and although

interviewing is important and needs to be graded, it should not carry enough weight to independently overturn the application score.

- iii. The application score is set at 100 points. Georgia has a simple interview rubric, similar to an animal reasons scorecard, that is broken up in the following way; 5 points for appearance, 5 points for presentation and 20 points for knowledge, totally 30 points.
- iv. Interviewer panelists should judge the interview as outlined in the rubric, scored rubrics should be turned in to determine a final total score. The Idaho SAE superintendent, and SAE committee chair should total the score to determine state winners. Tie scores would go to the highest application score.

**e. We move to amend the Idaho FFA Constitution, Article 5 Section E Number 9 Letter a, by striking all of letter a and inserting, “Demonstrating FFA knowledge by meeting the requirements of the Greenhand Degree.”**

- i. The committee feels that if an FFA member has successfully earned their Greenhand degree they have shown FFA knowledge.
- ii. There was some discussion about creating an online quiz on AET, like the parliamentary quiz, that would be recorded and stored in the member’s record book.

**f. We move to amend the Idaho FFA Constitution, Article 5 Section E Number 9 Letter b, by striking all of letter b and inserting, “A score of 80 percent or greater on the ten question parliamentary quiz available on AET.”**

- i. This quiz is already available to every member to take and the results would be stored.
- ii. The quiz would be the same for everyone and could not be altered.

**2020-2021 Chair: Tami Frank**

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