



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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THE Actuary

Significant actions – Board of Governors meeting

October 22, 1989 –
New York City

1. The Board endorsed the concepts of the recommendations in the final report of the Task Force on Strengthening the Actuarial Profession. Details regarding these recommendations will be communicated to the memberships of the Society and the other North American actuarial organizations. In summary, the recommendations call for:

- Definition and clarification of the responsibilities of the different organizations.
- Reorganization of the American Academy of Actuaries.
- Profession-wide standards and disciplinary structures.
- Improving member awareness of public interface issues.

2. The proposed constitutional amendment regarding credit for college and university courses failed for lack of a two-thirds majority but did gain the support of 59% of those voting. In light of this vote, the Board directed that the experiment in college credit be canceled and encouraged the Education Policy Committee to consider other ways to improve the Society's education procedures.

3. The proposed constitutional amendment regarding the Secretary and Treasurer positions passed with the approval of 93% of those voting. The Board adopted conforming changes to the Society's By-Laws.

4. The Board adopted policy statements and implementation guidelines for the Society's continuing education activities.

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Memo to the membership

To: All Members of the Society of Actuaries

Question: Are we listening?

In the SOA Secretary's report on this page, you will read that the Board, in light of the recent vote of the members, canceled the experiment on college credit and asked the Education Policy Committee to consider other ways of improving the Society's education procedures. While this motion conveys the formal action taken, as is so often the case, it does not fully communicate the informal discussion and conceptual thinking of the Board. I would like to give you that additional background and then talk about the more general issue of communication between the Board and individual SOA members.

The Board believes that alternative approaches to education will be important for the profession in the future. We thought the experiment we had constructed made sense, but it is clear from the vote that many of you are uncomfortable with it. Recognizing those views, the Board took the action described above. We hope you feel this action responds to the message that was sent.

The broader question is how individual Society members can provide input to Board members so that

membership views can be taken into account. Although we may not always do it well, it is fairly easy for the Board to communicate its plans to members. The process for communication to occur in the other direction seems to be, however, less developed.

The Board wants to respond to your ideas and views, and we want to keep you informed about the issues and directions we believe are important for the Society of Actuaries to pursue. Let me offer a few suggestions for how you can make your views known.

1. Talk to a Board member, Committee chairperson, or Section chairperson directly. These people are listed in the *Yearbook* and would welcome telephone calls or letters from you about current issues.
2. Provide feedback through your local club when the Society's President visits. During the coming year I will be talking to many local clubs, and this is an easy way to let me hear what is on your mind. What do you think the priorities for the profession should be?

Personally, I would find these meetings more valuable if they were less focused around what the Presi-

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Memo cont'd

dent wants to discuss and more focused on what the members feel is important to them.

To help me do that, would you fill out the postcard included with this issue of *The Actuary*? Please indicate which issues you would like to hear about, and I will try to incorporate as many of these as I can into my talks at the local clubs.

3. Write a letter to *The Actuary*. We have always had a good supply of letters to the Editor, and some of our members don't hesitate to express themselves strongly on important issues. Perhaps one missing element has been feedback to these letters. Under our current approach, a letter is published and that is the end of it. During the coming year, if you have questions or want to express an opinion, I would be happy to respond so all our members can read how the Board feels about a particular issue. If you have a question about how the Board is dealing with a current issue, or want an explanation of something, or are wondering why we are not taking action somewhere, please address your letter to me in care of the Editor of *The Actuary*. A response will appear in the same issue with your letter.

In many of my presentations I have stressed the need for actuaries and our actuarial organizations to take a stronger, more visible role in commenting on public issues where an actuarial viewpoint is missing. In a similar way, we need comments from you on issues being considered by the Board. Are there actions or nonactions that concern you? Are you comfortable with our priorities? Are you enthusiastic about the progress we have made in research? What about the money it takes? Are you comfortable with our election procedures? If you have ideas on these questions or any others, raise them with a Board member or ask when the President visits your club.

We want the benefit of your thinking, and I solicit your comments.

Sincerely,

Allan D. Affleck
President

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Board actions cont'd

5. The Board authorized the Executive Committee to approve a draft of fundamental principles being developed by the Committee on Actuarial Principles. The draft will be exposed for comment to the memberships of both the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society.

6. The Board authorized Society participation in 1990 in a public relations program designed to raise awareness of the actuarial profession. The program began this year in connection with the Centennial Celebration.

7. The Board adopted a resolution congratulating the Casualty Actuarial Society on the 75th anniversary of its founding and extending sincerest best wishes for its continued success.

Anthony T. Spano
Secretary

Happy 75th, CAS!

The Casualty Actuarial Society marked its 75th Anniversary November 7. The following congratulatory letter was sent from SOA President Allan D. Affleck to CAS President Kevin M. Ryan, along with an inscribed silver bowl, before the celebration.

Dear Kevin:

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the members of the Society of Actuaries, I extend congratulations to the Casualty Actuarial Society on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Because we are sister organizations, the Society of Actuaries feels strong ties and a sense of professional pride toward the Casualty Actuarial Society. This is true at an organizational level, but more important, is increasingly true as individual actuaries of our two societies work together on common professional issues. We congratulate the CAS on its professionalism, its education, and its research.

We hope your Jubilee Meeting is a success, in both a professional and a social sense. As a small token of the esteem we hold for the CAS and its members, we are pleased to present you with this gift.

Yours sincerely,
Allan D. Affleck