1. **What is the biggest concern/problem facing AAEA?**

The areas of interests of the membership have expanded and diversified to multiple fields of applied economics and agribusiness, as program support from the USDA has declined. Hence the AAEA has the need, and the opportunity, to become recognized by its existing members (and attract new members) as their professional home. The Association has to attract applied economists outside the traditional land grants schools and indeed outside academia. The Sections can serve a useful role in this regard. While advocating for support for economic analysis of policies and problems, the AAEA must strive to maintain a tradition of independence from public and private pressures in the conduct of academic research, in the public sector and academia. Its activities must combine excellence, relevance and inclusiveness. To be successful in this, it must continue to encourage tolerance and inclusiveness in its culture, and advocate for gender and ethnic diversity.

2. **What actions would you initiate to improve the situation described in your response to the previous question?**

We must listen to and learn from recent experiences of our members in trying to improve our capacity to connect with policy-makers in constructive ways, while encouraging the protection of public and academic spaces for top-quality independent analysis. One simple initiative that the public has a right to expect is establishment of a tradition of declaring all relevant financial interests or support in all presentations and publications.

My recent AAEA experience as a mentor has convinced me of the personal and professional value to all parties from fostering such cross-cutting generational professional and personal links. I believe there is room for expanding the scope of this initiative to specifically foster all dimensions of diversity in professional progress within our Association. In addition, I would encourage the tradition of lectures by cutting-edge economists and others in closely related
disciplines at AAEA meetings – an area where we are already ahead of many similar associations.

The financial challenge to our revenue stream due to the rise of Open Access publications is a combination of a short-run threat to AAEA finances and a long run improvement in the informational environment for researchers, especially those not associated with well-funded institutions. We need to encourage ideas from members offering new thinking on our financial needs and opportunities offered by shifts in informational technology. One thing seems clear – the personal value of physical meetings has if anything increased as long range communication technology has improved.

3. **At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?**

At the end of my term I hope to see the AAEA established on a solid financial base consistent with a fine value proposition as a professional home recognized by members in all applied fields. This value must reflect the appeal of an increasingly diverse, curious, active and interesting membership. The fine tradition of independence of analysis, both drawing on and informing the best of work in related disciplines, should endure and be increasingly transparent. Members will, with AAEA support, succeed in demonstrating the long run value of such analysis for all interested parties, using all available means of communication.