

Summary of the AFA Board Meeting  
Mid-year Meeting, July 16, 2019  
Via Zoom

The Board of Directors of the American Finance Association met via Zoom on July 16, 2019. This report summarizes the non-routine decisions and reports made at the meeting.

1. The recent decision of the AEA to hire an ombudsperson to address complaints from members was discussed. The AEA has also introduced certain principles that need to be accepted in order to participate in the ASSA meetings.  
The AFA Ethics Committee has struggled with the issue of what to do with complaints that come in and if complaints can be adjudicated. Having an ombudsperson sets up expectations about a process that might follow a complaint. The role of the ombudsperson would be to provide information related to AFA core activities and the reporting can be anonymous. Appointing an ombudsperson does not change the AFA policy of separating member behavior and AFA behavior.
2. The Board discussed the turnover of AFFECT committee members and the need to have regular turnover and general representativeness of the profession. AFFECT didn't have any turnover for the first four years, but moving forward would have committee members serve 3 years on the AFFECT committee at the discretion of the AFA president. Input was sought from the current profession and AFFECT in determining new AFFECT committee members.
3. The status of the Wiley contract renewal beginning in 2021 was discussed. The AFA elicited from Wiley a proposal, without requesting a full RFP from other publishers. Wiley is showing flexibility in areas where the AFA wants more control and the AFA is on a path toward ultimately renewing with Wiley.
4. As mentioned at the January 2019 Board meeting, the AFA moved to an outside website provider, SkyMark. The new website has been a successful change and that is why the AFA is considering going further and taking control of the member database.