

Summary of the AFA Board Meeting
Mid-year Meeting, July 2, 2020
Via Zoom

The Board of Directors of the American Finance Association met via Zoom on July 2, 2020. This report summarizes the non-routine decisions and reports made at the meeting.

1. The Board discussed a new proposed policy for Fellows selection. The AFA has had a series of policy documents, many of which are inconsistent with each other. The Fellows are the determining body of new Fellows and nominations will be solicited via email from the existing Fellows, however it is the Nominating Committee that sets the slate of candidates. In an effort to broaden the slate of potential Fellow candidates, it was suggested that younger candidates (40's and 50's) might be considered. Also, it was decided that a Fellow who has not been a President of the AFA would be eligible for nomination as a VP candidate.
2. The AFA has signed a contract with NORC and the current plan is to implement a climate survey in the fall although plans could change due to COVID-19. The data will be de-identified and then the AFA will own the data.
3. The Board also discussed a COVID-19 survey which AFFECT is proposing and leading. This would be a shorter and more anonymous survey to get feedback from the profession on the interplay between their academic and personal lives as impacted by COVID-19.
4. Other activities organized by AFFECT in 2020 include a mini-conference/seminar targeted at junior faculty and a panel discussion which AFFECT held on the effects of COVID-19.
5. COVID-19 and the focus on social justice has re-directed the energy of the Executive Committee this year. A working group is being formed with the goal to begin to frame how the AFA should deepen its commitment to social justice issues. The AFA is also having conversations with the PhD Project regarding how the AFA can support them.
6. The Board discussed the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on PhD students and whether the AFA can have a role in supporting postdocs. Overall, COVID-19 is going to have a persistent long term impact on the job market. Can the AFA play a role in providing systematic structure as we move away from just interviewing at the meetings?