

**UGC Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
ZOOM Teleconference via AHA
March 11th, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stacy Sanders at 1:02pm; also present were Patrick Wall, JR Tait, Shane Bedwell, Becky Hays, Matt Woolfolk, Kelly Retallick, Mark Henry, Jolene Grunhaupt, Rethel King, and Dean Pringle.

The only topic for the evening's call was to address the current Absentia Certification program. Wall addressed the current concerns and recent problems that have surfaced, most notably the need to validate current equipment used by Absentia qualified technicians.

A brief Treasurer's Report was voiced to the Board members in attendance. As of March 11th, the current balance in the checking account was \$25,888.50, and savings account balance was \$81,940.93. It was also pointed out that Absentia Certification in 2018 brought in \$4,600 with no expenses against it.

Absentia Certification was discussed at length. Image quality consistency, experience vs. inexperience, and the history of the absentia program were all debated. It was the general consensus that all technicians needed to be evaluated on the primary system they use in the field. Henry moved and Bedwell second to eliminate the Absentia Certification program. Motion carried. In order to grandfather in the technicians that do not expire until 2020, Sanders moved and Henry second to amend the original motion. The Absentia Certification program will not be offered to expiring technicians in the future. Motion carried.

Alterations to the current field certification protocol were also discussed. Bedwell moved and Henry second to scan 40 head one time, with at least 75% of the cattle being harvested at the conclusion of UGC Field Certification. At least 2 reference technicians would be utilized, at least 1 of those scanning with technology and equipment that can be interpreted by all labs. Motion carried.

Wall agreed to work with the Education Committee to draft the continuing education program. He also pledged to circulate the UGC Field Certification registration form as soon as possible and draft a letter to all field technicians regarding the rule changes and the justification behind it.

The meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.