

# CHINESE ECONOMIST SOCIETY

## Academic Publication Council (APC)

### Minutes of APC Meeting

to discuss proposal to co-host<sup>1</sup> *China Economic Journal* (CEJ) with The National School of Development at Peking University (NSD)

April 24, 2020 (via video conference)

**Attendees:** Orn Bodvarsson, Gan Li, Ding Lu, Jinlan Ni (Chair), Wing Tye Woo, Zhuo Chen (Alternate); Junfu Zhang (Current CES President):

Council members were briefed on the challenges facing CEJ the past 12 years and discussed possible reasons for those challenges. Two possible reasons were: (1) inadequate marketing by publisher; and (2) an insufficiency of good articles and of articles by famous scholars being submitted. Council members then discussed the possible contributions that CES could make to help NSD transform CEJ into a stronger and more impactful journal. Several strategies were discussed:

1. Position CEJ as another excellent journal of CES like CER and have CEJ focus on **applied** China economic studies. Publishing timely applied studies should create greater impact on policy discussions, business decisions, and best practices. We should avoid it being narrowly defined as a policy journal where academic merit is a secondary consideration. There must be no ambiguity that the objective is for CEJ to become a top analytical journal in China economic studies.
2. Convert CEJ into an open access journal. This will require a significant investment, and it is unlikely that the Finance Committee of CES would make such an investment.
3. Following CER experience, CES through its APC can help NSD to form a strong editorial team. Perhaps, CES would help select co-editors/editor-chief, and, perhaps, nominate half of the editorial board members. The CES will solicit paper submission from attendees at its annual meetings and from the invited speakers.
4. It was also suggested that NSD make a financial commitment to invite “big names” to contribute leading articles that will be included in at least one issue per year.

The group voted unanimously to recommend to the CES Board that CES enter a relationship with NSD by which it will co-host CEJ. The APC chair shall communicate the outcome of the vote to Yao Yang at NSD. According to CES by-laws (see Appendix), CES president Junfu Zhang shall take the next step of convey the outcome of the vote to the CES Board of Directors.

### Appendix

(Applicable CES by-laws):

#### Contracts

Any contract or agreement regarding academic publications, with any party including publishers and journal editors, and not excluding those with any other party, must be approved

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<sup>1</sup> Note CEJ follows CER model that Publisher owns the journal and NSD is currently the only affiliation. Co-host means that NSD and CES will be jointly the affiliation.

by the APC by majority vote. Such a contract or agreement must also be approved by the CES Board of Directors, and it must be co-signed by the CES President and APC Chair. Any contract or agreement as described above in this paragraph that does not satisfy these conditions shall be deemed invalid.

#### New Journals

Any initiation of new CES journals must be approved by a vote of at least two thirds of the APC members and by at least two thirds of the CES Board of Directors. An initiative for a new CES journal that has been approved by both the APC and the Board of Directors must be submitted to the entire CES membership for a period of three months for comments. At the conclusion of this comment period, the Board of Directors shall call for a vote of the membership on the initiative of the new journal by the CES membership. To become effective, the new journal must be approved by at least two thirds of membership votes.

CEJ: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=editorialBoard&journalCode=rcej20>.