**History of Statistics Interest Group**

**Conference Call Minutes, February 20, 2019**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

At approximately 10:00 a.m. this conference call began with a welcome by Chair Amanda Golbeck. In addition to Amanda, participants were Hans Kiesl, Wendy Martinez, John McKenzie, Jeffrey Smith, and Beverly Woods.

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting**

The minutes from the November 29, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

1. **Review of HoSIG Charter**

The interest group’s initial charter was examined for possible improvement.

Interest group organized events should not only be in cooperation with only the JSM Program Committee. They may be with the leadership of other meetings of the ASA and other professional organizations.

It was suggested that an ex-officio webmaster be appointed and added to the officers. Continuity in this position is important as the microsite is essential for communicating to the interest group’s membership.

The number of required meetings was discussed, but put off for future discussion.

1. **Review of JSM Sessions So Far**

Jeffrey (Program Chair), Lee (Program Chair-Elect), and Wendy (Past Chair) reviewed the status on the JSM 2019 sessions that the interest group has supported.

The interest group is involved with two invited paper sessions: “Learning from the Past – A History of Censuses” and “They Never Die: A Historical Overview of the Many Uses of Famous Historic Data Sets”.

There are two topic-contributed paper sessions: “Snapshots in History: Statisticians Making an Impact” and “Deming’s Statistical Legacy”.

If possible, the interest group would be interested in cosponsoring memorial sessions at JSM.

Amanda mentioned that there was still time to present a late-breaking session for this year’s proposed. Hans stated that some of the contributed papers might be of importance to the interest group.

1. **Proposed JSM Session for HoSIG: Celebrating the New COPSS Florence Nightingale David Lecture**

Another JSM session in which the interest group is involved is the proposed initial JSM presentation of the Council of Presidents of Statistical Society’s initial presentation of its Florence Nightingale David Award (“This award is named after Florence Nightingale David, an accomplished statistician and the first recipient of the Elizabeth L. Scott Award. The award, sponsored jointly by COPSS and the Caucus for Women in Statistics, is granted to a female statistician who serves as a role model to other women by her contributions to the profession through excellence in research, leadership of multidisciplinary collaborative groups, statistics education, or service to the professional societies. The award, established in 2001, is given biennially (odd years). The award consists of a plaque and a cash honorarium of $1,500, and is presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). Starting from 2019, the award winner will also deliver an F.N. David Lecture at the JSM.”). It is the first JSM award lecture named for a woman.

There was question about whether this session would be filmed.

The interest group is cosponsoring a related invited paper session entitled “Celebrating the New COPSS Florence Nightingale David Lecture”.

1. **JSM Planning: Business Meeting and Social; Post Card; Welcome Table; etc.**

In planning other activities at any JSM, it was noted that it is important to review activities from recent JSMs.

It was hoped that the annual meeting and social of the History of Statistics Interest Group would be scheduled before or after the initial presentation of COPSS’s Florence Nightingale David Award in which the recipient will make a presentation.

The format of the business meeting and social was discussed. The topics for Amada to present to the attendees were briefly addressed.

Ordering cake (and need plates and utensils) for the social was also discussed. There was a cautionary note about ordering too much food.

The number of postcards to be distributed at the welcome table was considered, with one coproduced with COPSS. It was mentioned that the postcards might constructed so that each could be snail-mailed.

1. **Review and Update of Microsite: Adding Content (links to other history groups; biographical materials, etc.)**

There continues to be problems with accessing the interest group’s microsite. The major concern is that it appears that one cannot get to the site if one is not a member of the ASA, even though an individual is a member of the History of Statistics Interest Group.

Among the initial items to consider for links in the microsite were biographies of noted statisticians, a listing of their births and deaths, video interviews of such statisticians, the Significance magazine timeline, and information booth puzzles. Hans suggested a list of influential books dealing with statistics, including links with information related to each book. In addition, Wendy put forward links to videos of those noted statisticians. Beverly agreed to work on improving the contents of the microsite.

1. **Other Business**

There is a need for volunteers to assist with the Significance magazine timeline of statistics.

There was a reminder that the ASA Committee on Archives and Historical Materials continues to look for committee members, who are required to be members of the ASA.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.