**History of Statistics Interest Group**

**Conference Call Minutes, October 28, 2019**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

At approximately 11:05 a.m. this conference call began with a welcome by Chair Amanda Golbeck. In addition to Amanda, participants were Hans Kiesl, Lee Kennedy-Schaffer, Wendy Martinez, John McKenzie, Jeffrey Smith, and Beverly Woods. Margie Nemeth was unavailable to participate in the call due to a conflict with another event.

1. **Minutes**

John reported that he had recently sent out the minutes from the annual business meeting on July 30, 2018.

1. **Review of 2019 Activities**

The focus of this discussion concerned the JSM 2019. Lee was most pleased by the location of the interest groups’ table. It was close to the registration area which led to an unusually large number of attendees who visited the table. John asked if there were any photographs taken of the booth. He was disappointed that there were none and hopes that there will some in future JSMs. Jeff pointed that the order of speakers posted their room’s PowerPoints was different than the order present in the program. This was eventually straightened out but he hopes that it will be corrected for JSM2020. Jeff also suggested that photographs of the interest group’s speakers be taken in the future. John mentioned that there is an official JSM photographer who is most willing to take such photographs if he is asked. Finally, it was mentioned that the cost of the sheet cake was surprisingly far less that other possibilities for hotel refreshments.

1. **Update on Program for JSM 2020**

The interest group submitted a proposal for a JSM2020 invited session, entitled “Digital Analysis: Past, Present, and Future”, but it was not accepted. It was been resubmitted as a topic-contributed session, cosponsored by the ASA Section on Statistical Graphics. Possible additional cosponsors are the Section on Statistics and Data Science Education and the Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences.

The interest group will also cosponsor any memorial sessions, once they have been announced.

John mentioned that future sessions might be related to the birth and death anniversaries of noted statisticians or the anniversaries of influential statistical papers.

Wendy reminded the interest group officers that once the initial JSM schedule is posted that someone should scan the titles for potential cosponsorship.

One possibility for a future interest group session was one on the first woman ASA fellow [or the first African-American ASA fellow]. Another would deal with eugenics, for which an article had recently appeared in the Significance magazine. The last suggestion was one that deal with Elizabeth Scott.

1. **Election of Officers**

Wendy mentioned that there are three officers up for election. They are Chair, Program Chair-Elect, and Secretary. Jessica Kohlschmidt and Jana Asher have expressed their interest in one of these positions. It was agreed that it is best for the interest group to have at least two candidates for each officer.

1. **Information Sharing**

Wendy and Amanda attended the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress 2019 in Kuala Lumper, Malaysia, in mid-August. They described relevant sessions related to the interest group.

Wendy mentioned that there are two fall talks that ASA History of Statistics Interest Group might wish to participate in person or electronically. The first is “Evolution of the US Census: Politics, Society, Opportunity, and Innovation” presented by Howard Hogan, Census Bureau (retired), on November 21st. The second is “How and Why did Probability and Statistics Come About?” presented by Nozer Singpurwalla, George Washington University and The City University of Hong Kong, School of Data Science, on December 4th. Both will be given at George Washington University.

1. **Other Business**

John suggested that the interest group might send out a survey asking for ways that the interest group’s microsite might be improved. Beverly, who is in charge of the site, mentioned that this had been recently been done and did not receive many suggestions. Even though that was true, John felt strongly that periodic surveys should done, if only to promote contributions to the site. [An excellent discussion of the site appears in conference call minutes of June 26, 2019.]

Beverly mentioned that a major problem with our microsite (and other interest group microsites) was the difficulty in getting to it.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.