GSS Open Business Meeting Minutes
August 2020

1. Introductions
   a. Current Board
      i. Chair: Jenny Thompson
      ii. Chair-Elect 2020: Michael Messner
      iii. Past Chair: Elizabeth Mannshardt
      iv. Secretary/Treasurer 2019-2020: Tara Murphy
      v. COS Rep 2019-2021: Jennifer Parker
      vi. Program Chair 2020: Michael Yang
      vii. Program Chair-Elect 2020: Will Cecere
      viii. Publications Officer 2019-2020: Jenny Guarino
   b. New Executive Board
      i. Chair-Elect 2021: Simone Gray
      ii. Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2022: Emily Molfino
      iii. Program Chair-Elect 2021: Stephen Campbell
      iv. Publications Officer 2021-2022: Kathi Irvine

2. Treasury Report
   a. Tara reported membership rolls are approximately the same as last year, with a slight decrease in 2020 for the GSS only members. As of August 10, there were 371 GSS only members and 354 GSS/SSS joint members. Membership dues increased in 2020 by $2, increasing dues from $6 to $8 for GSS single membership, and from $10 to $12 for GSS joint membership with SSS.
   b. As of June 30, the GSS account has a balance of $7,714.59. There were no 2020 JSM related expenses, which is typically where the largest expenses are accrued, due to the virtual format and other factors. [No food for the business meeting, mentoring roundtable postponed, no student travel awards for student paper competition (award money voluntarily paid by SRMS), no professional category submissions for the data challenge, which GSS sponsors.]
   c. GSS has been trying to spend more on deliverables since the influx of revenue from underwriting the ICES IV conference in 2012. GSS is again underwriting ICES VI conference, but that has been postponed until 2021 so any revenue/expense from that will likely be observed in 2022.
   d. Tara expects the account to settle at around $9,100 at the end of 2020.
   e. Select expected 2020 expenses include awards. Other initiatives planned for the year will not accrue an expense for GSS.
   f. Revenue comes from membership dues, as well as interest on our bank balance.

3. Awards
   a. Pat Doyle
      i. Uniquely offered by GSS
      ii. Awarded to Elizabeth Mannshardt
   b. Outstanding Section Service Award
      i. Established by COS through ASA
      ii. First year GSS invited to give out the award
      iii. Awarded to Darcy Miller
   c. Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship
      i. Jointly awarded by GSS and SSS
         1. Committee with 3 members- 2 GSS members, 1 SSS (next year will flip)
      ii. Awarded to Sepideh Mosaferi
   d. Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
i. Jointly awarded by GSS and SSS
   1. Nominated with 4-5 letters of support from mentees
ii. Awarded to Dr. Raji Sundaram
e. Data Challenge Awards
   i. Postponed selection until later in August

4. Remarks from Wendy Martinez (ASA President, Data Challenge Guru, past-GSS chair)
a. Unable to attend in person but sent notes
b. Data Challenge Expo
   i. Two submissions by students in 2020
   ii. Working with Census’s Data Lab for 2021 challenge

5. 2019-2020 in review
   a. Blended data webinar series
      i. Six independent sessions on blended data
      ii. All materials are posted on the GSS website
      iii. ASA considers successful session of 20-30 participants; this series had ~100 per session
      iv. ASA included this in their Professional Development Series, so there was no cost to GSS
      v. Members should consider and make suggestions for future topics or presenters
   b. Seasonal adjustment practitioners workshop (SAPW)
      i. Semi-annual, one day conference co-sponsored by BES and WSS consisting of presentations and break-out sessions
      ii. Jonathon Wright and Bill Bell served as speakers for the Fall 2019 workshop
      iii. All previous SAPW materials will be saved together on the GSS website
      iv. Program Committee includes three members of GSS, who are not members of the GSS Executive Board
         1. Good opportunity for members not on the board to get involved
   c. JSM 2020 Roundtables
      i. Mentoring roundtable is useful to pair mentees and mentors in person, so GSS board unanimously voted to postpone such roundtable until JSM 2021
      ii. Non-probability Samples roundtable hosted by Michael Yang will be offered for free in the fall (see below)

6. Upcoming New Initiatives
   a. Virtual roundtable (non-probability sample)
      i. Hosted by Michael Yang and offered for free in September with 12 attendees via Zoom
      ii. If this format works, GSS would like to offer other roundtables for free
   b. Blended data virtual workshop/practicum
      i. After successful webinar series, practicum will be offered in the fall
         1. One in September, one in October
      ii. Each presenter will get about 10 minutes to share work and then 10 minutes to answer questions
      iii. Work on small area estimation using blended data would be welcome, as this topic is popular within the federal government currently
   c. Mentoring initiative
      i. Currently committee of board members, but would like to have more involvement from members
         1. Reach out to Mike Messner (messner.michael@epa.gov) to volunteer to be on the committee
      ii. Looking to provide a means for mentees to work with mentors in all levels of commitment
         1. Very flexible- long or short term commitments
      iii. An email will be sent looking for mentees and mentors in the coming weeks
1. Committee will then match mentees with mentors
   iv. More to come- stay tuned!

7. COS topics
   a. COS meets twice during JSM
      i. July 31st and August 17th in 2020
   b. Section membership
      i. How to attract members to different sections?
      ii. What are the sections offering to the members?
      iii. Why join some sections and not others?
      iv. If you have suggestions, contact Jennifer Parker (jdp3@cdc.gov)
   c. How sections work together
      i. GSS collaborates with SSS, WSS, BES and others for awards, workshops, etc.
   d. Mentoring initiatives
   e. How to support executive boards
      i. What sections should do when co-sponsoring activities and awards
      ii. Transitioning of roles on the board
   f. Any input you have for COS, email Jennifer Parker (jdp3@cdc.gov)
      i. Per Zoom chat:
         1. What do you like/dislike about the ASA website? And the ASA Community?
         2. GSS collaboration with chapters other than WSS

8. Solicitations for Committees
   a. Co-sponsored (other sections/chapters)
      i. Jeannie E. Griffith Mentoring Award – Chair or co-chair
         1. Current chair is stepping down and no current committee member would like to serve as chair or co-chair
         2. There is an established committee and an established procedures book
      ii. Roger Herriot Award – Chair
         1. Co-sponsored by GSS, SSS, and WSS
         2. Due to lack of committee, this went un-awarded in 2020
   b. GSS Committees – Members
      i. Newsletter
      ii. Nominating Committee for future board members
         1. Historically only past-chair
      iii. Mentoring Initiative
         1. Mentors, mentees, or organizing committee members

9. GSS ASA Fellow Committee (reinstated)
   a. Two private sector employees serving on the committee

10. Open discussion, including suggestions for deliverables
    a. Requests for other deliverables like short courses?
       i. Jenny is planning a short course / webinar on how to publish in a refereed journal and how to select a journal
          1. NISS has great interest in this
       ii. What is the role of science policy? How can GSS be involved in this?
       iii. Networking/mentoring/other outreach and support for state-level data scientists (e.g., Florida issue...)
    b. How can GSS contribute to the dialogue on treatment of new statistical problems with official statistics/survey research methods due to the pandemic?
       i. For example, nonresponse
1. Is it because it’s a bad time to contact or because the business went out of business and won’t ever respond in the future?