

Draft Minutes
Government Statistics Section Business Meeting
August 5, 2003

Introductions

The Government Statistics Section's (GSS) Business meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. Each of the attendees introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report

John Czajka gave the treasurer's report.

- Membership has been fairly stable. Current membership is down a by 16 people compared with last year.
- GSS is third among sections in the number of papers on the most recent JSM proceedings CD. Thus, since sales from the proceedings CD earned a net loss, GSS bears the third largest burden among sections in the total loss from sales. As of March, losses from the CD totaled \$800.
- Revenue has come primarily from dues, but corporate sponsorships from agencies have become another consistent source. ASA is now giving the sections the names of sponsors and amounts contributed to the sections (previously only the amount was given). ASA is also giving the sections the names of those who paid the page charges. Some revenues from the sales of old proceedings keep trickling in. When the topic of old proceedings was raised, it was suggested that at least 2 copies of past years' proceedings should be maintained by the section and that the section should eventually scan old proceedings into electronic format.
- The primary expenditures for the section are the food costs at meetings. Some costs for printing the newsletter are incurred and the section is sometimes responsible for the cake at the Roger Herriot award ceremony. The section also co-sponsors the student paper award on an "as the budget allows" basis.
- The budget for next year was circulated.

Council of Sections Report

Stephanie Shipp gave the report of the meeting of the Council of Sections.

- Section charters will soon be posted on the ASA website.
- Luncheon roundtables at the 2002 JSM in New York were panned by all sections. ASA received a rebate on the lunches and the money is going back to each section's general budget.
- ASA is seeking proposals for strategic initiatives in 2004. The ASA Executive Committee identified 3 themes: 1) Building a Broader Statistical Community; 2) Promoting and Actively Participating in Statistics Education, Research, and Practice; and 3) Furthering the Role of Statistics in Public Policy and Discourse. The ASA Board is encouraging special topic conferences. \$30,000 will be set aside for conference initiatives for sections.
- There will be no changes to the price or allocation of page charges for the CDs.
- What was previously a special interest group on homeland security and counterterrorism within ASA is seeking to become a section. The Council of Representatives will vote on the measure in October. The Council of Sections Governing Board has approved. GSS members voiced opinions on the topic. One concern raised was that because a new section would mean the loss of one invited session at JSM, it may be time to review the process for how sections are formed and whether some sections that are less active should be eliminated.

JSM 2003 and 2004 Program Chairs Reports

Nancy Bates reported on GSS sessions and participation in the 2003 meetings.

- GSS sponsored 3 invited sessions and one panel session, 11 topic contributed sessions, and 3 regularly contributed sessions. These are quite close to totals from last year. GSS also sponsored a student paper competition and the winners of the competition presented their papers during a JSM session.

Jana Asher reported on the luncheons for this year and on plans for the JSM 2004 program

- GSS sponsored 4 luncheons at the 2003 JSM meetings. These luncheons, although down in number from the 7 that were sponsored last year, were very well attended.

- 8 proposals for invited sessions for the JSM 2004 have been submitted to GSS and the Social Statistics Section (SSS).

Publications and Newsletters

GSS and SSS produce two joint newsletters per year. GSS, under the direction of John Dixon, published a newsletter this past July. Jered Gerstenblum will take over the coordination of future newsletters for GSS.

Awards

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The Wray Jackson Award was given to Yun Li of Bowling Green State University for research on how states have reacted to local fiscal crises.

More entrants for the award for next year are welcome. Applications are due by April 1, 2004.

The fund for this award currently contains about \$20,000. Washington Statistical Society (WSS) will match donations. If someone donates to the fund, please let Jana Asher know so she can make sure the donation is matched with WSS funds.

ASA Fellows

Nine of the new ASA fellows are GSS members: Mary Batchner, Lawrence Brown, John Czajka, Carol House, Sarah Nusser, Trivellore Raghunathan, Marilyn Seastrom, Nancy Spruill, and Alan Tupek

Roger Herriot Award

David Banks, formerly of the Food and Drug Administration, now with Duke University, was awarded the Herriot award this year.

Jeanne D. Griffith Mentoring Award

Richard D. Allen won the first ever Jeanne E. Griffith award this year. Richard is the Deputy Administrator for Program and Products for the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

New Business

The group continued to discuss ideas for strategic initiatives (see Council of Sections report). Proposals are due March 1, 2004. Ideas for small conferences on the following topics were suggested: disability statistics, the definition of poverty, and bridging reports of race and ethnicity from the old OMB standards to the new OMB standards.

Action Items: Any new ideas or further elaborations on these ideas are welcome. Members should contact Wendy Alvey or Nat Schenker.