

**Draft Minutes of the
Government Statistics Section Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2003**

Welcome

The Executive Committee Meeting came to order around 7:15 AM on Monday, August 4, 2003 at the Hilton Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Attendees introduced themselves. Newly elected officers – Chet Bowie, Chair Elect; Brian Harris-Kojetin, Program Chair Elect; and Dan Kasprzyk, Council of Sections Representative Elect – were welcomed to the Government Statistics Section's (GSS) Executive Committee.

The minutes of the May 5, 2003, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Membership – John Czajka presented the Treasurer's report for Connie Citro, who was unable to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). He pointed out that membership rates have been holding steady, with a substantial number of members who hold joint memberships with GSS and the Social Statistics Section (SSS). About 51 members have elected to take the joint membership as their 1-year free Section membership. Czajka recommended trying to track new members to see if they renew their membership with the Section once the free year is over.

Proceedings CD-ROMS – Czajka reported that revenues from CD-ROM sales continue to be lackluster. Sales of the CD-ROM Proceedings for the New York meetings were about 1,400 out of over 5,000 attendees – not a very strong sales ratio. Further, it is not clear where the funds from old CD sales are being credited to the Section's account nor what happened to the old print Proceedings that were in storage. He also reminded the Committee that page charges go directly to the Sections. Page charges amount to \$90 for a 6-page paper, so it is worthwhile to encourage members to pay page charges.

Budget – John Czajka noted that revenues and expenditures for the joint memberships are allocated at the end of the calendar year. GSS gets about two-thirds of the joint dues. One extra credit this year will be the rebate from the luncheon roundtables in New York. The hotel has reimbursed the American Statistical Association (ASA) for part of the cost of the lunches, because of all of the complaints received. The ASA Board decided to return those funds to the Sections proportional to the number of seats sold at the luncheons. On the expense side, GSS was responsible for the cake for the Herriot Award last year. We won't have that expense this year. For 2003, GSS should end up with \$442. The proposed 2004 budget anticipates that the Section will spend \$800 for the Student Scholarship and \$1,000 for the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS) fund.

Corporate Sponsors – Plans are to send letters to those who have given in the past, except for recent Corporate Sponsors. Chet Bowie said to send him a letter and he would see about having his office make a donation.

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The WJSS Committee selected Yun Li of Bowling Green State University as the WJSS winner. The Committee is interested in marketing the WJSS better, to get more applicants. The Committee is composed of Jana Asher (Chair), Pat Doyle, and Sameena Salvucci. Doyle rotates off at the end of this year.

The WJSS has raised \$20,000 and needs to raise another \$5,000 to be self-sustaining.

Council of Sections Report

Continuing Education – Stephanie Shipp reported that Estelle Rusek-Cohen is Chair of the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education. She encouraged the Sections to appoint a person in charge of Continuing Education and to consider submitting proposals for short courses. The deadline for proposals is October 15th. One topic GSS has considered is something on Federal statistical databases, but questions were raised as to whether ASA is the right audience for that. Perhaps the Association for Public Data Users would be more appropriate.

New Section – The Committee on Defense and Homeland Security has approached the Council of Sections (COS) about becoming a new Section. As required by the COS guidelines, it has been a Special Interest Group for 2 years, has obtained 100 signatures favoring Section status, and has drawn up a slate of officers and a charter. Sections were asked to discuss this at their Section meetings and the COS Reps will vote on the issue in October. Potential drawbacks discussed include possible loss of an invited session and additional sessions for already-full time slots. Shipp pointed out that, by 2004, the JSM will be meeting in convention centers, instead of hotels, so space will not be as much of an issue. Negotiations are planned with the other sponsoring associations that would include potentially changing the formula for invited session allocations.

Other News –

- *Strategic Initiatives* – Proposals are due in March 2004. \$30,000 will be set aside for special conferences, with no deadline.
- *COS Booth* – The COS decided to keep the booth another year.
- *Awards* – Sections that want to announce their award recipients in the Fellows program must get the information to ASA in June.
- *Section Charters* – Charters for all Sections will be posted to www.amstat.org.
- *CD-ROM Proceedings* – The pricing allocation for the CD-ROMs will remain the same. The page limitation for papers was increased – 8 pages for contributed papers and 10 pages for invited papers. The headers on the pages are being improved, as well, to indicate “ASA” and the JSM year.

JSM Programs

Nancy Bates reported that the 2003 GSS program includes 4 invited sessions, 11 topic contributed sessions, 1 topic contributed panel, and 3 contributed sessions. The session featuring winners of the Student Paper Competition will be held Wednesday morning – please attend. Only 10 students applied this year. Bates asked for suggestions on spreading the word. It was suggested that flyers be put at the table for the Caucus for

Women in Statistics and sent to summer students at statistics programs. The WJSS flyer should be sent too.

Jana Asher said that 4 roundtable luncheons were set up. Two had sold out and the other two had at least five attendees.

For the 2004 program, Asher has already received 8 proposals. GSS has 3 allotted sessions and SSS has 2. There will be open competition for 3 additional invited slots.

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Pat Doyle attended the March meeting and Clyde Tucker attended the June meeting. They will prepare an article for *Amstat News*.

Committee on ASA Fellows

Clyde Tucker headed up the GSS Committee on ASA Fellows, with Pat Doyle, and Rich Allen. They identified four candidates for nomination as Fellow; two were elected – Marilyn Seastrom and Nancy Spruill – and one fell through the cracks. Tucker rotates off the Committee this year. Nancy Kirkendall and Dan Kasprzyk are on the ASA Fellows Committee.

Other Business

Bob Mason, President of ASA, mentioned several challenges facing government statisticians – including succession planning and recruitment for senior levels statisticians – which he felt ASA could help address.

Brenda Cox suggested that the GSS co-sponsor the Establishment Surveys conference with the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) on a regular basis. SRMS puts up \$5,000 in seed money and works with other groups to organize the conference. Each conference should have a unique theme. Diane Willimack is coordinating the monograph on *Questionnaire Design for Establishment Surveys*. Although co-sponsors get to share the profits – and the SRMS conferences traditionally make a hefty profit – some on the GSS Executive Committee felt that GSS cannot afford to take the risk right now.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at around 8:45 AM.

Wendy Alvey
November 11, 2003