

American Statistical Association

Government Statistics Section

Executive Committee Meeting: June 10, 2004

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:30. Participants included: Patty Becker, Shelly Ver Ploeg, Chet Bowie, Brian Harris-Kojetin, John Czajka, Nathaniel Schenker, Wendy Alvey, Pat Melvin, Clyde Tucker, and Bill Wong. William Smith and Monica Clark of the ASA staff were also present for parts of the meeting.

1. Bill Smith made the ASA Executive Director's Report:
 - a. The ASA election results were announced.
 - b. ASA is busy--there are many sections, chapters, committees. Fritz Scheuren is almost done appointing committee chairs.
 - c. Several Board Task Forces:
 - i. JSM Agreement implementation
 - ii. Student outreach magazine, for outreach outside of math and statistics departments
 - iii. Electronic publications: many issues about costs and revenue, but this is the way to go.
 - iv. Graduate education (there is also a K-12 Task Force in place)
 - v. Book series
 - vi. Journal in bio-pharmaceutical statistics
 - vii. ASA/NSF relationsLooking for recommendations from these groups later this year. Read *Amstat News* for updates.
 - d. 2004 meetings: planning going well; expecting 4500. Planning to use more ASA employees and fewer temporary staff.
 - e. There are about 6 strategic initiatives, for a total of \$50,000.
 - f. Money is available for workshops; can use ASA staff
 - g. Various membership initiatives in process
 - h. New building: still under contract, but city of Alexandria put a stop-work order on it in May and it hasn't yet been cleared. ASA is "investigating all options."
2. Minutes of November meeting were approved with minor changes.
3. Corporate sponsors discussion. Nat recused himself from this section of the meeting.
 - a. Wendy distributed her end of year report which appears in *Amstat News*, noting that it included the list of corporate sponsors.
 - b. Stephanie Shipp was not available for a conference call after all, but had indicated in an email that there was a problem with NIST sponsorship. She needs to be able to tell them what NIST is getting for the money.

- c. John Czajka reported on his fundraising efforts. He indicated that the trick is figuring out "who to ask" in a specific agency.
 - d. A lengthy discussion ensued about the question of what benefits can be offered and what they would be worth to the agencies. Roundtable tickets and copies of Proceedings were suggested as possibilities. No conclusions were reached.
4. Patty Becker presented the Treasurer's report, which was accepted. (See attached.) There was a question of the posting of the April workshop income [since resolved positively]. It was presented during the corporate sponsors discussion, so that meeting participants would have background information.
- a. Patty raised the issue of "what money is for what"—dues reasonably cover the costs of meetings activities (Exec. Comm. breakfast, business meeting food). Other major costs are contributions to various honors—Herriott, WJSS, student awards.
 - b. It was **agreed that \$800 to \$1000 should be contributed to the student paper awards.**
 - c. Clyde Tucker agreed to send letters requesting contributions to the agencies which have contributed in the past; he and others will work on identifying others.
 - d. Returning to the corporate sponsors discussion: **Agreed: one roundtable luncheon ticket per contributing agency.**
5. GSS-sponsored conferences:
- a. Wendy reported on the successful FSCM-GSS Workshop. There were 70 participants.
 - b. There will be an International Conference on Establishment Surveys. The organizing meeting in November; the conference itself is in 2007. They are looking for contributions for student scholarships. The group consensus was *not* to support this effort financially. ***Note to participants: is this correct?—or was it the Telephone Survey Conference that we decided not to support?***
 - c. Clyde reported on the Second International Conference on Telephone Survey Methodology, scheduled for January 2006 in Florida.
6. The group discussed the funding request from the Committee on Privacy and Confidentiality for its website on privacy, confidentiality, and data security. The general consensus was that the section could not afford nor appropriately provide the \$2500 requested. **Agreed: Nat will obtain further information from Al Zarate, and poll the Committee on contributing \$500.**
7. Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship. Jana Asher reported via email that she has detailed herself to fundraising, and that Wendy has "graciously stepped in and worked on getting this year's award going." Progress is slow.
8. Other awards and recognition:
- a. The list of GSS 2004 ASA Fellows was distributed. Mike Cohen, of BTS, had particularly been sponsored by GSS. Clyde, the Chair of the GSS subcommittee

on Fellows, is leaving the committee. He indicated that Pat Doyle would become the chair. [Subsequent to the meeting, Pat succumbed to cancer.] Rich Allen is also leaving. Clyde indicated that he would be willing to remain on the committee. He also reported that they had tried, unsuccessfully, to get people outside of the DC area nominated as Fellows.

- b. The Jeanne Griffith award was presented the week before the meeting.
 - c. The Herriott award session will be Tuesday at 8:30 in a session on small area data.
 - d. The Student award session will be Tuesday at 10:30. Jana Asher's email reported that there were 18 applicants and five winners.
9. Publications: there have been several columns in *Amstat News*. The newsletter will go out in July. Pat Melvin distributed a draft. It was agreed that the list of sponsors will not include agencies which have made no contributions in 2003 or 2004 to date.
 10. JSM 2004 program: see newsletter draft and ASA's online program. It's all set. Jana's email reported that there are 4 invited sessions, 10 topic contributed sessions, and 3 contributed sessions. Jana extended thanks to Shelly Ver Ploeg for writing the July *Amstat News* column and to Phil Steele.
 11. JSM 2005: there was some discussion of possible invited sessions in 2005; anyone with ideas is urged to get them to Brian.
 12. COPAFS: Clyde reported on the March COPAFS meeting, including the possibility of a National Indicators project.
 13. Council of Sections Report: Dan Kasprzyk sent an email, but there is not much to report now. Clyde and Patty highlighted a discussion about the Proceedings on CD, and the need for ASA to do its homework. The section financial pictures have changed dramatically with the shift to CD.
 14. Nat reminded the group of the scheduled meetings in Toronto.
 15. New business: Patty requested that the agreement to pay her plane fare, because of the extra trip caused by the Reagan funeral, be formalized. **Agreed: Patty will be reimbursed \$274 from Section funds for the second plane ticket.** Nat noted that this is not setting a precedent for payment of travel expenses; it is a one-time reimbursement because of the special circumstances.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. (Patty) Becker, Secretary/Treasurer