

American Statistical Association
Government Statistics Section

Executive Committee Meeting
December 9, 2004: ASA Headquarters
Minutes

1. Lunch was provided and consumed while chatting with Bill Smith, ASA Executive Director. He provided the following information:
 - a. They are terminating the contract for the new building, and trying to get reimbursement of the expenses.
 - b. ASA is close to a decision on purchasing a building at 702 N Washington in Alexandria. The building is 27,000 square feet (as compared to the current 12,000 square feet), 5 floors, and has lots of parking. It's about a half mile from the Braddock Road metro station. The building is old and gutted, allowing for ASA to define the interior space. Some of it would be rented out.
 - c. New categories have been established for gifts and for international memberships.
 - d. Seven new task forces will be at work in 2005.
 - e. Other items from the ASA Board meeting were reported, and will be outlined in the February *Amstat News*.
2. Chairman **Nat Schenker** introduced and welcomed newly elected members of the committee.
3. **Patty Becker** presented the minutes of the August meetings, which were approved with minor modifications.
4. The treasurer's report was presented and some of the specific figures were discussed. Our share of the Joint Section dues is \$1350, based on 66% of the total; together with \$900 from dues just for GSS brings the total to \$2250. The Newsletter item was changed to \$1000. ASA wants the section reserves to equal 20% of the annual budget. **John Czajka** reported on corporate sponsorships: we had four last year (Census, SSA, IRS, and USDA-NASS). This year we have only three. With Cynthia Clark gone, a new contact is needed at Census.
5. **Steve Cohen** came in to talk about the International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES). It is planned for July 18-21, 2007, in Montreal. He described the conference plan. The cost is projected at \$175K; last time, they had income of \$250K. There was discussion of various pros and cons.

Nat thanked Steve for coming and discussion proceeded on the level of commitment that GSS would make. We agreed on \$2000 seed money, plus assumption of a 10% cost/benefit risk. The vote was unanimous.

6. JSM:
 - a. **Jana Asher** reported on 2004 : "It was fine, it's done, I'm happy."
 - b. **Brian Harris-Kojetin** reported on plans for 2005. We will have 5 invited sessions, including two beyond our quota. We got almost everything we asked for. There will be a Pat Doyle memorial session. He's had 5 or 6 inquiries about topic contributed sessions, and reminded everyone that the deadline was February 1.
 - c. **Mike Cohen** said that he would send out an email regarding luncheons. It was agreed that speakers do not have to pay for their own luncheons; GSS will assume that cost.
7. **Dan Kasprzyk** reported on the Council of Sections, saying that there was nothing new. There is a new coordination of email through Monica Smith. The COS meets again in February.
8. **Clyde Tucker** reported on COPAFS, discussing the agenda of the meeting to take place the next day. There was to be a session on Services sector data. Legislation was passed requiring the Census Bureau to include a "some other race" option on the questionnaire. Nat reported that **Wendy Alvey** has agreed to be a COPAFS representative for 2005-06, replacing Clyde.
9. John Czajka led the discussion considering what could be done to honor the memory of Pat Doyle. Nat suggested that the Distinguished Service to the Section Award could be named for her. Wendy suggested that it would appropriate to make this announcement at the Pat Doyle invited session in Minneapolis. There was some discussion of making a plaque, and participants agreed to come back with a definite plan for the March meeting.

Jana moved to create the *Pat J. Doyle Service to the Section* award. It was passed on a unanimous vote.

Chet Bowie announced that the Bureau would be posting a vacancy to fill her position in January or February.
10. After a short break, Wendy announced the slate for the 2005 elections. Steve Cohen is nominated for Chair, and Al Zarate for Program Chair. ***I may have this wrong; please correct.***
11. Nat reported on the ASA Strategic Initiatives program. Proposals are due March 1, and Nat will be on the committee. Jana proposed a project of helping statisticians in developing

countries to develop skills: a training program, short courses, scholarships for conference attendance. She stated that she can't be the driving force, that we should partner with other groups, and that she could recommend someone to run it. Jana announced that she is pregnant and will be withdrawing from her previously high level of ASA activity.

12. Fellows, awards, scholarships:

- a. Clyde reported that he will be the chair of the section's fellows committee, and will be joined by Mary Batchner (new) and Rich Allen.
- b. Nat reported on the Herriot and Griffith award committees, saying that Dan Weinberg has agreed to serve on the Herriot committee. They are advertising for nominations and things are moving along. John C. announced that the Herriot award would \$1000 from now on, with GSS contributing \$200.
- c. Jana reported for the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship committee. She referred to the Social Statistics Section proposal which had been emailed to all committee members and recommended that we accept it. (See attached.) Clyde stated that we should be sure that members of the Population Association of America (PAA) know about this opportunity as well. There was unanimous agreement to accept the SSS proposal.
- d. Brian reported that the student papers deadline had been extended to December 15. Four or five applications have come in.
- e. Nat mentioned the committee appointments that had been previously announced: Dan Weinberg on the Herriot committee, Mary Batchner on the Fellows committee, and Wendy Alvey for COPAFS.

13. Publications

- a. **Steve Porzio** came in to provide background on the new system for handling proceedings. We have already moved from separate publications to a single CD. The new proposal is to include the CD as part of the JSM fee, beginning in 2006. This means that *section involvement in the proceedings will disappear*. No decision has been made on sales of prior proceedings. Page charges will also disappear. Patty requested that a report be made on the proportion of each section's members who attend JSM.
- b. **Shelly Ver Ploeg** reported on the 2004 CD-ROM.
- c. **Robert Lussier** presented a plan for the 2005 *Amstat News* column and the *GSS/SSS Newsletter*. (See attached). After discussion, there was unanimous agreement to accept the proposal.
- d. **Pat Melvyn** distributed the new newsletter, and said that members should receive it by January 11. She received a round of applause.

- e. Shelly reported that Nat has agreed to do an end of year article for *Amstat News*.
 - f. **Bill Wong** reported on Amstat Online. He distributed printouts of the web pages. There were some comments and corrections.
 - g. Wendy distributed the current version of the brochure.
14. Other items:
- a. There is interest in exploring a B&E/GSS joint membership. Monica will provide more details.
 - b. The next meeting date was set for March 10.
 - c. This is the last meeting for Jana, Clyde, Patty, and Shelly.

The meeting was adjourned at about 4:15 p.m.

Participants:

Nat Schenker, 2004 Chair
Patty Becker, 2005 Secretary-Treas.
John Hall, 2005 Secretary-Treas.
Jana Asher
Michael P. Cohen, 2006 Program
Wendy Alvey, Past Chair
Chet Bowie, 2005 Chair
Shelly Ver Ploeg, 2004 Publications

John Czajka
Robert Lussier, 2005 Publications
Patricia Melvin, Newsletter
Brian Harris-Kojetin, 2005 Program
Bill Wong, Amstat Online Asst. Editor
Dan Kasprzyk, COS Representative
Steve Cohen