

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
SECTION ON GOVERNMENT STATISTICS (GSS)  
BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Statistical Meetings  
August 8, 2006  
Seattle, WA  
Minutes

Refreshments were served prior to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:55 PM by Section Chair Stephanie Shipp. Approximately 50 people attended; Stephanie introduced the section officers and officers-elect who were present.

Stephanie announced the winners of: the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship, Maria Ciarleglio of Yale University; the Roger Herriot Award, Nat Schenker of NCHS; the Pat Doyle Award, Robert Lussier of Statistics Canada; and the Griffith Award, Martin O'Connell of the Census.

Mike Cohen congratulated the five winners of the student paper competition cosponsored by GSS.

The treasurer's report for 2006 was presented by John Hall. The balance as of June 30, 2006 was \$16,093.36, so the section is in good shape. The 2007 proposed budget needs to be submitted by September 30, 2006.

Stephanie reported that Chet Bowie had so far recruited five corporate sponsors for 2006 who had made their contribution; we are hoping for one more in 2006.

Dan Kasprzyk reported on the Council of Sections. He mentioned the ASA is seeking applicants and nominees for Executive Director. Those who would like to apply or nominate someone should contact Bob Rodriguez, the chair of the search committee. Dan also reported that this year's JSM was the largest ever and that the COS had asked for section reactions to three questions: is it desirable to give poster sessions more prominence, and if so how; what do we think of the coffee roundtables; what is our reaction to Community Booth with only ASA staff?

Members offered some questions about the poster sessions: Do they count as a paper, and will that discourage people from doing them; can there be invited posters? On the other issues, one member's spouse had attended a coffee roundtable and was happy with it; a few members commented that the booth's location was ok.

Michael Cohen, the 2006 Program Chair, stated that the GSS has four invited sessions at the 2006 JSM. There will also be eight topic contributed paper sessions, and five regular contributed sessions.

Robie Sangster, the 2006 Program Chair, briefly discussed the luncheon roundtable sessions for 2006. She reported that GSS was allocated three Invited Paper sessions for JSM 2007, and that we are in competition for two others.

Robert Lussier reported on publications. GSS has had something in every issue of Amstat News for several months. The GSS Newsletter is now electronic and is prepared monthly. Contact Robert or Sonya Vartivarian if you want to write or have ideas for topics.

Steve Cohen reported on ICES. It is progressing well and a full program should be available at the end of December.

Wendy Alvey reported on COPAFS. She stated that there has been discussion about the potential elimination of SIPP, on the ACS, and the impact of Katrina on surveys.

There was some discussion of strategic initiatives. Steve Cohen asked for input on and names of people to invite to a “Workshop on Survey Disruptions” which has some funding from ASA and SRMS. Carolyn Shettle mentioned that the Committee on Disabilities is trying to get Webcasts of JSM session, especially things like the presidential address.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Prepared and submitted by:

John Hall

GSS Secretary-Treasurer 2005-2006