

## **Minutes of the Government Statistics Section, JSM August 5, 2008**

Attending: Carol House, Steve Cohen Sonya Vartivarian, Robert Lussier, John Dixon, Mike Davern, Lisa B, Chet Bowie, Carolee Bush,

The meeting was called to order at 7 a.m.

Minutes from the March 19, 2008 meeting were briefly discussed. There were no immediate changes; Section members should review over the next two weeks and any changes sent to Carol.

Treasurer's report. The mid year report indicated little change from last year. Current income levels were incomplete as not all membership fees have been received. The -major increase in income was due to the small profit for ICES III of \$1,700. The total increase to the GSS budget was \$3,700 as the initial funding level of \$2,000 was also returned to the budget. Corporate sponsorship had been received for 4 of the 6 Federal agencies.

A discussion of ICES III and the potential for the next ICES followed. For ICES III, the Hotel rooms needed a 75/80 percent commitment; they got a got 78 percent so there were no upgraded rooms made available. The basic problem was BLS/Census travel cutbacks.

The potential for ICES 4: Steve Cohen indicated that 7 years between conferences was too long; a 5 year interval would put the next conferences put into 2012 — so planning was already needed. One potential issue is location. The possibility of having the meeting in Europe is probably not feasible. If Europe can't do, then this implies North America, probably in the Northeast for Stat Canada.

An additional issue is that the Chair of the planning committee will not continue. John Eltinge will resign in Fall Also, there is a need to have a proposal to ASA Board of Directors by December meeting to get Hotel contract; this may not happen. A question was raised about whether 055 should "own" the conference, possibly with SMRS. For ICES III — GSS (10%) IASS (10%) ASA (3 5%) Stat Canada cannot do a contribution. Should GSS/SMRS form a small group as an organizing committee? Steps that need planning: Who puts a proposal forth, getting a conference announcement with a call for papers, determining the location (Canada — Toronto Montreal?), working with an ASA planning group (ASA liaison needed to protect ASA). Steve will check with SMR Executive section to discuss.

Wrap up — It was noted that ICES II had a \$100,000 profit. There was a vote to increase the GSS participation to 15 percent — the vote passed.

Discussion of the current JSM. There was a request to contribute to the video taping of a memorial session on Tuesday — Fritz(?) wanted to videotape at cost of \$1800. Discussion centered on whether this would create a precedent — GSS vote on contribution was NO

For 2009 so far 5 invited proposals for 3 slots, with 1 more slot that might be expected. Proposed sessions were on confidentiality, two on the future of RDD, 1 on planning for Census 2010, 1 on panel data. The ASA website will be open until September — One additional possibility mentioned was a session on the impact of decreases in federal budget

Further discussion on the issue of coffee versus luncheon sessions. For 2008 GSS had requested 2 sessions as coffees, but both ended as lunches and both well attended. A problem may be that next year the JSM is in DC - this implies more coffees needed. It was suggested that more need information on attendees was needed, in particular, exactly who is interested

Invited posters will be implement next year. They will be on Monday afternoon, with a formal competition and judges. GSS suggested award amounts were — \$500/\$250/\$250 SMRA did \$1000 this year. There was a suggestion for Plaques to agency heads. Discussion centered on the need for an award committee and where to present the award (depending on if award to a person from a Federal agency or not). There was a suggestion to redisplay the posters at the GSS Business meetings

Time issue — several members leave for 8:30 Sessions  
More notes to follow?