

## **DRAFT Minutes: Government Statistics Section**

### **August 3, 2009**

Attended:

Natalia Verbitsky	Carol House	Robert Lussier
Bill Wong	Carolee Bush	Lisa Blumerman
Sonya Vartivarian	John Dixon	Steve Cohen
Sunhgee Lee	Lester R. Curtin	Beth
Iris Shimizu	Mark Harris	Stephanie Shipp
Ken	Steve – chair elect	

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm. Minutes from the March 2009 Executive Staff meeting were distributed; any corrections were to be sent to LR Curtin. The final minutes should be posted on the GSS web site by Bill Wong.

The Agenda for Business meeting, to be held August 4<sup>th</sup>, was briefly discussed.

#### ***Awards***

All awards that involved GSS were discussed. Stephanie Shipp began with a discussion of the Jeanne Griffith Award. This award is for mentoring young professionals in an area of work involving Government Statistics. A question was raised in regards to the award focus on mentoring in just the US Federal government sector, or should the award be more open (for example, to Statistics Canada or to U.S. State governments). There was a proposal to change “Federal government” to just “government.”

There is a handbook on how to run this award. To advertise the award, there is a brochure. published, an article that typically appears in the August AMSTAT news, and there are usually signs at the JSM. Each member on the selection committee serves 6 years. Note that there is an ASA rule that limits award committee membership to 3 years but this rule also allows for a renewal for another 3 years. Three of 6 committee members come from GSS. The GSS membership on the selection committee includes the current GSS chair and the past GSS chair. A question was raised - if past winners should or should be part of committee. At this time, the only ASA section sponsoring this award is GSS. Social Statistics section is listed as a sponsor but they do not currently contribute funds. A question was raised if other ASA sections should be asked to contribute.

The total expenses associated with the award amount to \$2,000 per year. There seems to be an account with past funding from COPAS, ASA and Mathematica Policy Research. ACTION: Stephanie will check with the ASA budget office to verify budget/accounting details and submit them to Randy, although the finances should be kept separate from the GSS budget.

Past nominees roll over to the next year. This past year there were 10 nominations and it was decided to give out two awards. Each person received \$500.

ACTION Stephanie will write a proposal, or just modify the brochure to address the questions and changes suggested today.

Mark Harris discussed the Wray Smith award. There was only 1 nomination this year; there probably needs to be more advertising to solicit nominations. Mark would like to get a copy of the ASA list of universities/addresses to solicit nominations. There are 3 members of committee. An article on the award is due for the September newsletter and the forms are available on the GSS website

An issue was raised about the number of awards sponsored by GSS, the number of various articles on the awards, and the co-ordination of activities, including the nomination, selection, presentations, budget, and advertising required. ACTION: Carol House will add the particulars associated with the awards to the check list of responsibilities for next chair of GSS.

Sunhgee Lee discussed the JSM student awards. In combination with SSS and GSS there were 14 papers submitted and 5 papers selected for award. A certificate will be given out as part of the GSS business meeting with all students awardees invited. There was a last minute issue this year with funding for travel for one of the students (from Brazil?). The student did attend. A question was raised whether ASA could waive the registration fee for student paper award winners. At this time there is no clear description of the award process. ACTION: The 2009 GSS program chair will write a description of the award process and submit to the Executive committee of GSS to review.

The Roger Herriott Award is jointly sponsored by WSS, GSS and SSS. This award is for innovation in the Federal statistical system. This year the winner was Linda Carlson EIA, NSF. There is a problem in that this award needs to have the award and selection process better documented. For example, the award is typically presented in a JSM session on "Poverty" but there is no specific mention in the JSM program. A question always comes up about the refreshments to be served and who is responsible for paying for those refreshments. ACTION: Invite Representative/Chair (Frank Potter) of the award committee to next meeting.

Pat Doyle award, for service to GSS, is presented at the GSS Budget meeting. This year the winner is Stephanie Shipp

### ***Budget report***

ASA requested each section to determine the section dues and in particular if any section wanted to increase section dues. As there are only few sections at \$7, GSS executive committee voted to not raise the section dues. It was noted that other sections may be raising their dues.

The Trend in Membership totals

	2007	2008	2009	Free
Joint SSS/GSS	383	383	419	26
GSS only	435	485	527	194

#### The Trend in GSS Budget

End 2005	\$13,042.51	
End 2006	\$14,592.03	
End 2007	\$14,705.38	
End 2008	\$19,221.07	(Note: ICES-III “profit” increased the balance)
11/10/2009	\$21,154.77	(Note: JSM expenses not yet charged)

For the current list of sponsors, NSF provided a 3 year contribution. Among past sponsors who have not yet contributed, BLS (Jon Eltinge may provide). ACTION: discuss again the possibility of Outside Federal government sponsors at next meeting in December

#### **ICES-IV Planning**

Mark Harris discussed the planning for ICES – IV. One of the planning goals is to have the process be more continuous and not “ad hoc” for each cycle. GSS members serving on the planning group include Steven Cohen and Carol House (as past chairs of GSS). The ICES-IV will be held in Montreal, June 7-12, 2012. Note that JSM will be in Montreal in 2013. At this time, the Organizing sections of ASA have all signed their agreement on cost/profit sharing. There is no increase in the GSS level, which now stands at the same percentage as ICES-III. Any agency or other sponsor can make contributions and these contributions can be spread over several years.

#### **Brad Edwards and Nancy Bates – Proposal for a special conference**

Brad and Nancy would like to have a special conference on “how to Survey hard to reach populations” and they are looking for support. They need seed money and sponsors so they are looking towards ASA sections and APPOR. If held, Roger Tourangeau JPSM UMD would be the chief editor of a proceedings volume. Past efforts were a 1993 Census Bureau and a 2004 Statistics Canada conference. Planned timing is for 2012 after the US census evaluation. The concept is to make this an international meeting and to operate through an ASA contact. They plan to have about 300 attendees. There would be the same money profit loss risk sharing as GSS does with ICES. They also will accept contributions with no sharing of risk/profit. For example, any federal agency can contribute but they will not be involved in the cost-profit sharing. The belief is that there is a need for \$30,000 seed money. They may also look into a grant from PAA for partial funding.

Discussion centered on a number of issues. The date selection conflicts with FCSM, ICES, IASS. October 2012 is also a problem – it is an US election year and there is a timing problem with a Statistics Canada symposium. If GSS were to participate, would ask for representation on the organizing committee. GSS might participate at a level of 10% or 15% but the GS executive committee would need to see the projected budget figures and the meeting model proposed (e.g. registration fees, food included, etc). It was noted that the figure of \$30K sounds too low for seed money as ICES seed money was \$100K. ACTION follow-up discussion in December meeting

### ***JSM update***

This year there were 4 invited sessions, 12 topic contributed session, 3 coffee and 3 lunch roundtables - all coffees and luncheon were sold out. It was noted that all coffee and lunches should be self financed although the section does pay for presenter/leader. In the Poster competition there was 1 winner (from the IRS) and 2 honorable mentions. ASA will mail checks after JSM is over.

For 2010 GSS has 3 invited sessions allocated (also 3 to SSS; 5 to SMRS). Current possibilities from GSS – panel on government statistics, 2010 Census/ACS, Method innovation. From SSS – poverty session, data confidentiality, Census 2020 planning.

### ***Carolee Council of Sections***

New officers are listed on the website. There is now a 2 year wait rule for new sections to be proposed. The JSM invited session allocation for 2011, 2012 was discussed. One issue raised was that some individuals are submitting the same paper for more than one award. The Council of Sections is updating the Handbook on voting and use of email. The Section officer manual is now on web for section officers

### ***Sonya – Publications Report/Schedule***

Sept issue to summarize JSM, note Poster winners, possibly have a brief text note on the roundtables selling out.

Due by September 1 – the Pat Doyle award (Carol) for October issue

Herriott award was already in August AMSTAT – question – who writes (in the future)

K Wallman requested for article on Federal Statistical System to appear for February

Dec issue will have announcement for nominations for J Griffith awards – maybe do all GSS sponsored awards at that time. Also, Dec – call for JSM papers

Jan – articles from the next and outgoing chair of GSS

### ***COPAS report***

Next COPAS meeting will be in September, minutes not yet out from last meeting. Report/article should be submitted to Sonya by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

### ***General***

Posters – letters will be sent to agency heads

For Nov newsletter – Randy write update on ASA Fellow nominations

Bill will be updating histories on the Website, but the section redesign (due to change in web contractor by ASA) makes more difficult. Question of use of LISTSERV. Is it being used? Does anyone Post job announcements?

Wendy – Need 100 copies of GSS brochures

Steve Pierson still waiting on the two ASA drafts - one on Education and Carol on Agriculture.