Section on Government Statistics
Executive Committee Meeting
March 21, 2011 at Noon
FINAL Minutes

Attended: Steve Paben, John Dixon, Lester R. Curtin, Iris Shimizu, Daniel Toth, Ken Copland, Bill Wong, Ron Wasserstein, and Brian Harris-Kojetin

By Telephone: Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz, Sonya Vartivarian, and Kevin Cecco

1. **Welcome and review of agenda**
    - Introductions and review of agenda were completed

2. **Discussion with Executive Director Ron Wasserstein**
    - Ron updated GSS Executive Committee members of the following topics:
        i. ASA Elections are ongoing – voting allowed until midnight May 3, 2011; expected participation rate of ASA members for election around 35-40%; ASA firewall will ensure voting confidentiality
        ii. Nomination process for 2012 ASA President and Vice President; Steve Cohen (NSF) is heading up the nomination committee
        iii. JSM 2012 – Thus far, ASA has received many abstracts for meetings in August in Miami; 2011 Federal continuing resolution causing concerns for number Federal statistical agencies
        iv. 2014 will be the 175th Anniversary for ASA; Planning has started for this important celebration
        v. New Statistical Practice Conference to be held in Feb 2012 in Orlando, FL; Unlike JSM, this conference will features talks and sessions on the practical implementation of statistical methods and practices; Phil Scito will be chair of the organizing committee for this conference
        vi. ASA Accreditation Program now in place; 83 statisticians currently accredited by ASA
        vii. Bob Rodriquez (ASA President Elect 2012) is working to establish a program for M.S. degree students; program which highlight critical skills and knowledge needed in Master's programs to be successful in Federal statistical agencies

3. **Communication Activities**
    - Natalya talked about several exciting articles that were found in the Jan-Feb and March GSS newsletter; she also mentioned upcoming GSS/SSS elections; she mentioned upcoming conferences (and calls for papers) such as H2R Conference being held in New Orleans in Oct 2012, FCSM Research Conference being held in Washington DC in Jan 2012, and ICES IV being held in Montreal in June 2012; Upcoming April GSS newsletter will include information on the JSM roundtables and a possible article from Brian Harris-Kojetin from OMB; May GSS newsletter will invite information on GSS invited and topic contributed sessions, and a JSM checklist article highlighting different things to know about the upcoming conference in Miami; the June GSS newsletter will contain an article about "citrus forecasting" in Florida and results from the Student paper competition; Lastly, any ideas for articles to be placed into future GSS newsletters should be sent to Natalya
    - Sonya mentioned that the Amstat News article is coming along nicely
    - Bill Wong will be updating officer and contacts on the GSS website; Bill will also update 2011 Corporate sponsors, leaving on 2010 corporate sponsors for now

4. **Approval of Minutes from December 2010 Meeting**
    - Randy reviewed his secretarial notes from the December meeting; he asked everyone to review his minutes and offer any comments or changes

5. **Finances**

Kevin provided an update on the March 2011 GSS budget:

Trend in Membership totals

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Free
Joint SSS/GSS	383	383	419	400	396	6
GSS only	435	485	527	439	415	31

Trend in the GSS Budget Balance

End 2006	$14,592.03
End 2007	$14,705.38
End 2008	$19,221.07
End 2009	$18,373.79
End 2010	$16,557.38
Mar 01, 2011	$16,792.38

6. JSM 2011

- Iris discussed a few high level statistics related to JSM 2011 – there will be 4 invited GSS sessions, 13 topic contributed GSS sessions, and 5 contributed GSS sessions
- 6 students submitted a poster for the GSS Student Poster competition; judges to make final determination on awards later this spring
- Roundtables – Dan mentioned there will be two roundtable sessions at JSM 2011 – John Eltinge will present "Initiatives in Research Opportunities in the Federal Government Statistics System" and Larry Cox will present a session on disclosure concepts
- Executive and business meetings – The executive GSS meeting will be held on Tuesday morning, August 2nd and the business meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, August 2nd. Expecting approximately 30 people for business meeting

7. Awards

- Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award – Carol House unable to make meeting, therefore, nothing to report regarding Griffith mentoring award
- 2011 Student Paper competition – 12 papers submitted, up to 5 awards possible, award session planned for JSM in Miami, judging to take place between March and August
- Pat Doyle Award – committee to get together in next few weeks to discuss 2011 award
- Wray Jackson Smith Award – Mark Harris heading up award committee; deadline for 2011 award is April 15, 2011; everything running along smoothly this year; selection(s) will be made between April and August; John Czajka will be replacing Mark Harris in 2011.
- Herriott Award – Bob Fay heading up award committee; nothing to report at this time; deadline for award is April 1, 2011

8. Sponsored Conferences

- ICES IV – Conference to be held June 2012 in Montreal; Call for papers in progress – call for invited submissions closed, call for papers for contributed sessions open from June-Aug 2011
- H2R 2012 – Conference to be held Oct 31- Nov 3, 2012 in New Orleans; Call for papers in progress – call for invited submissions closed, call for papers for contributed sessions open from April-May 2011
- 2012 FCSM Conference – Conference to be held January 2012 in Washington DC; Call for papers from Jan-May 2012; thus far, things running smoothly with conference

9. Council of Sections report

- Ken Copland indicated that things were relatively quiet right now; Ken needs to update section charter by developing standardized verbiage across all sections; updating charter requested by ASA

10. Section Charter update

- Steve Paben also reported the need to update section charter by developing standardized verbiage across all sections; updating charter requested by ASA

11. COPAFS report

- Nothing to report for the meeting