Section on Government Statistics
Executive Committee Meeting
March 31, 2014 at 12:00noon
Minutes – Final version


1. Welcome and introduction of members
   • Introductions and review of agenda were completed

2. Review of Agenda
   • Jill provided an overview of topics for the meeting today

3. Approval of minutes from GSS August meeting
   • Kevin stated he received and incorporated comments from the November meeting minutes.
   • The minutes were then finalized from the November meeting.
   • Kevin said he would email Bill Wong with finalized version of November minutes.

4. Finances
   a) Kevin provided an update on the March 2014 GSS budget:

   Trend in Membership totals:
   
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint SSS/GSS</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSS only</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
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   Trend in the GSS Budget Balance
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2011</th>
<th>$16,792.38</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>$13,452.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 2012</td>
<td>$13,002.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2013</td>
<td>$28,585.78</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2013</td>
<td>$28,167.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 19, 2013</td>
<td>$25,918.91</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 31, 2014</td>
<td>$27,310.25</td>
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   b) Rick Peterson indicated there could be a slight revenue impact caused by the Council of Sections’ passage of the Lifetime members’ agreement. This new arrangement impacts about 3% of the GSS members.
   c) Solicitation of corporate sponsors – Kevin mentioned that two federal agencies have contributed in 2013. Carol House had the responsibility in 2013, but she is no longer on the GSS executive board. Ken Copeland indicated that he would assume this responsibility in 2014. Ken will be sending out notices to Federal agencies in April 2014. Thanks, Ken.
5. JSM 2014
   • Grace provided the following details for JSM 2014:
     o GSS has 3 invited sessions planned for 2014 (2 competition submissions were not selected). Invited sessions are Innovative Uses of response Rates for Survey Management; Measuring Same-Sex Couples, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity in Population-based Surveys; and Evaluating Quality in Official Statistics
     o GSS will be sponsoring two roundtable topics for JSM in 2014. Both are PM Roundtables on Wed 8/6: NCHS Record Linkage and Estimating incidence risk for two complex sample surveys - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Asthma Call-back Survey
   • Topic contributed sessions:
     o GSS was allocated nine topic contributed and we had five submissions: Privacy at What Cost, Valuing Life: Issues in Traffic Fatalities, Applications of Text Analysis, Modeling Driver Behavior, and Non-Traditional Data Collection Methods
   • Regular contributed sessions
     o GSS has seven regular contributed sessions including sessions on Targeted Address Canvass and Coverage, Data Quality and Nonresponse, Statistical Inference, Economic Data, Specialized Survey Populations, Disclosure and Privacy, and Time Series/Benchmarking
   • GSS Poster Competition
     o GSS has six posters submitted – the poster presentation session is on 8/6 from 10:30-12:20 pm. Grace will follow up with Eric about poster competition judging and criteria and will find three judges.
     o GSS has four speed session submission across two speed sessions – Speed Session #3 is 8/4 at 2:00 pm and Speed Session #4 is 8/5 at 8:30 am

Submitted requests to ASA Meetings Department for these meetings at JSM:
   • Executive Board Meeting: Requested Tuesday, 8/5/14, 7:00 am; estimated cost is $366
   • Business Meeting: Requested Tuesday, 8/5/14, 5:30 pm; estimated cost is $3158

6. Awards
   • Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award – Kevin provided timetable of activities for the Griffith Mentoring Award in 2014. Debbie Griffin (Census Bureau) will be this year’s chair of the committee. Committee will be meeting on Fri, Apr 25 to rank applicants and select winner for 2014. Nominations are due April 4. Award ceremony is currently scheduled for June 11, but may be moved to July. GSS will be asked to nominate 1-2 people for the committee. Jill will check with Brian Harris-Kojetin to see if he would be interested. Per Kevin, this involves a commitment of about 10-15 hours in the month of April for committee members, more time for chair (50-100 hours in the months of January – June); committee members serve a 3-year term, chairing the committee in their third year
   • Wray Jackson Smith Award - Relay a report from Linda Gage (committee chair): No news about 2014 award yet. Committee had good cooperation from GSS/SSS
webmasters in getting award information updated. Committee will have the following upcoming needs: Announcement of winner on website, Approval from GSS to issue check to winner, Selection of either GSS or SSS Business Meeting at JSM to present award, Appointment of 2015 committee member to serve a 3-year term.

- Herriot Award – Relayed a report from John Dixon (committee chair): As of last week, there were no entries. Deadline for entries is April 1.
- Pat Doyle award: Jill Montaquila, Lisa Blumerman, and Wendy Martinez will be on the committee this year. Award recipient to be announced/recognized at the GSS business meeting at JSM.

7. Conference Sponsorship

- ICES V
  - Conference will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on June 20-23, 2016; sponsored by the Swiss Statistical Office
  - Strong support to broaden participation for conference to European community
  - No conference sponsorship needed for ICES V since Swiss Statistical Office assume all financial responsibilities for the conference.
  - GSS executive still thinking about the possibility of offering a student award or researcher recognition award for travel costs to the conference. A final decision will be made at a future GSS meeting.
  - Jill reached out to Polly to ask about funding needs for travel awards for conference. Hasn’t heard back from Polly yet, but will keep Executive Committee posted on this.

- Total Survey Error (TSE) Conference 2015
  - TSE 15 planned for Sept 19-21, 2015
  - Conference will be held in Washington, DC area, sponsored by several organizations
  - TSE 15 Conference committee is seeking a $4,000 contribution from GSS
  - If GSS agrees to contribute, GSS would assume a risk/award position where GSS would either receive or lose funding depending on the profitability from the conference.
  - GSS tabled a final decision until Jill gathers additional information from the organizers of the conference. A final vote on whether the GSS should contribute to the conference will come in Apr-May timeframe.

8. Council of Sections report

- Nothing to report for this meeting. Ken Copeland will provide update at August GSS meeting.
9. Communication Activities

- Nancy took over responsibilities of communication activities from Sonya and Natalya. New GSS newsletter editor: Aneesah Williams has distributed several GSS newsletters in 2013 and 2014. Newsletter being distributed on a quarterly basis.
- 3 newsletters went out to GSS members in 2013; goal is to produce 4 newsletters in 2014
- GSS collaborating with Social Statistics Section on quarterly newsletters
- Nancy encouraged folks for ideas and content for articles and material in 2014
- Next GSS newsletter planned for April 2014
- Rick Peterson suggested that GSS consider adding communication messages to such social media sites as Facebook or Twitter. He mentioned that other ASA chapters have successfully disseminated important information to their members via this channel. It was decided to add this topic to the August GSS executive meeting agenda.

10. Other business

Wendy Martinez mentioned that about 10 years ago, GSS made available a large FAA dataset of all flights in the USA. A contest was proposed allowing participants to analyze the flight dataset using various statistical and visualization tools and methods. Wendy proposed that GSS consider conducting another contest using a new 2014 dataset. Participants could once again use any statistical or visualization tool to analyze data from a highlighted Federal dataset. One such dataset to use could be the 2014 Census Block Group Planning dataset. This dataset should be available to the general public by August 2014. The contest would be open to both college students, as well as private and public sector employees.

The GSS executive committee was generally in favor of this new contest and tasked Wendy to write-up the proposal for a formal vote at a later point in time. The proposal would spell out the exact parameters of the contest, including which dataset would be used, timelines, and award suggestions. Winners could present results at the 2015 JS Meetings.

11. Meeting closed.