

The GSS executive committee meeting was held on August 11, 2015 at 7:00 am in Seattle Washington.

In attendance: Wendy Martinez, Mike Davern, Sylvia Dohrmann, Jenny Guarino, Morgan Earp, Amy O'Hara, Jennifer Parker, Jill Montaquila, Stacy Lindburg, Michael Hawes, Fritz Scheuren, Ken Copeland.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Parker.

Welcome, introductions and review of agenda.

Approval of minutes from GSS March meeting

The minutes from the March 2015 meeting were approved. Minutes will go to Bill Wong for posting.

Fritz Scheuren spoke about opportunities for the GSS.

Scanned GSS proceedings will soon be available, paid for by SRMS. They are currently being indexed.

Someone is needed to replace Fritz on the Herriot committee.

The Journal of the IAOS. Fritz is editor in chief.

Fritz proposed to associate GSS officially with the IAOS, for free, on a trial basis for one year to see if we like it. It would be a place to publish. The June issue is open/free. Members of the section would be encouraged to become members of the association, IAOS. Presenters at the recent World Statistical Congress in Rio have been encouraged to submit their papers for publication. Fritz will write an email for Wendy so she can send information to the members. The incoming IAOS president is Ms Ola Awad, President of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

<http://www.iospress.nl/journal/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/>

Finances

Treasurer's report

Jennifer provided the budget information as of July 31, 2015 (a surplus). It was suggested that we think about ways to spend the money to benefit the members. There should not be more than twice we need for operating expenses in reserve.

Corporate sponsors

Ken is reaching out to corporate sponsors now. This is the time of year that organizations consider sponsorship. Last year we had three sponsors.

A question was asked about non-government sponsors? Ken responded that non-government sponsors are not possible due to potential conflict of interest.

Jill asked about the ASA POC (Amanda Malloy). Ken will contact her.

JSM 2015.

Jenny reported that we had 6 invited, 13 topic, and 12 contributed sessions. Only one session (Topic) we accepted was canceled. One poster session contained the remaining contributed papers.

Morgan reported on the Roundtables. Originally we had 5, but Gordon Willis and Paul Beimer said they couldn't come. We pay for the lunch for the speaker so Roundtables are an expense for the section. Otherwise neutral. Roundtables sold out? (Morgan will check this)

The Ingegerd Jansson roundtable was one of the first to sell out.

(Ingegerd Jansson (editor of JOS) was contacted for next year for a short course and is interested – this would be an expense.)

Data Challenge. This year we had the first Data Challenge. We had 8 contestants. 4 preferred to do posters and are in speed poster session; our topic contributed session with the others will be at 2 pm. Jill will be the discussant. One of the contestants is a teacher who did this challenge with the class. Several people will be judging and the winner will be announcement at SMRS meeting. Participants are a mix (retiree, RTI, professor, winner of Ray Jackson Smith award)

Lessons learned: 1) need to have certificates for all entrants, 2) handling the money is challenging (IRS form to ASA) so will do that later.

Sylvia asked how we announced the challenge. Wendy responded that the notice had been posted to many sections, on the web, and

Amstat news; other ideas welcome. Wendy will do an article on the Data Challenge after the JSM and could highlight outreach, possibly for Amstat news? Article could be used to announce the next Data Challenge.

JSM 2016. Morgan reported that invited proposals are due Sept 3. Topic session proposal will be accepted Dec 1-Jan 14. Regular contributed abstracts and roundtable proposals will be accepted Dec 1 - Feb 1. Abstracts for accepted Topic sessions are due Feb 1.

If we include a short course for Ingegerd, what is needed other than a title?

The more information that is put into proposals the better the chances of getting accepted. It is hard to make a decision with no information. It is great to have speakers listed, tentative titles and an overall abstract. Morgan will do a call for proposals. The number of slots for JSM 2016 should be about the same as for this year. Any new constraints will affect the open competition not the slots.

2016 Data Challenge. Wendy proposes another data challenge for 2016. Similar to the webmaster position, someone would need to manage this. Wendy would be willing to do this in 2016 to flesh out the process more and she has a data set in mind.

The executive committee agreed to have a Data Challenge for 2016.

One possible data set for the Data Challenge: BEA is a 2014 sponsor and has an interesting data set related to how much US spends on different medical conditions.

Council of Sections report was given by Ken and related to invited sessions. In 2017, the Council of Meetings has agreed that 12 additional invited sessions will be added. What would be allocated versus open has not been determined. Possibly there will be additional slots for other partners to JSM. The 12 are for ASA. Total number of invited sessions is 80-85 depending on whether IMS is involved in meeting (every other year). When IMS is involved, they get 5. The allocation only affects competed not allocated sessions.

Ken reported that the section treasurer's report is due at the end of Oct.

ASA Board is exploring future sites for JSM for 2022. 2022 is a Midwest year. Toronto and Chicago are on the list. A small number of cities are in the pool for JSM due to its size and the objective of having the location be a positive destination; staying away from far south based on Miami attendance. The

Board wants to see how Chicago plays out before committing to 2022. Other cities brought up but not thought to be a destination.

Jessica Utts (ASA President-elect) talked about her initiatives. A key initiative is enhancing the statistician's role in conveying information. The idea would be to have people (statistical ambassadors) available to provide statistical viewpoints and training to statisticians on interacting with media. There will be opportunities for everyone.

The Council of Sections has developed a new section handbook that will be distributed. It's a good resource on officers' roles.

Final thing. There has been an application for a new section - Lifetime Data Analysis. Groups can apply to be new sections. Most groups previously have been interest groups. Interest groups don't get sessions allocated but serve area of interest. Criteria for sections: number of members, charter, officers. LDA has met these. The voting will be in Sept. Each section gets one vote. Implications. One invited session, reducing one of competed invited sessions. There was additional discussion on the pros and cons of this proposed section.

(Congratulations to Ken for being named an ASA Fellow)

Awards. Jill reported on awards.

Jeanne E. Griffith. Need report from Wendy on this.

The Herriot award will be presented tonight (August 11). Fritz needs someone to volunteer to replace him on the award committee. Jill says this requires a low level of effort.

Wray Jackson Smith – Jenny reported that there was only one entry but it was good. The winner will be speaking at the session for the Data Challenge.

Pat Doyle Award– The past-chair, chair, and chair elect decide on this award. This year's winner will be announced at GSS business meeting). The winner is Steve Cohen.

Student paper competition. Morgan reported that there were 29 contributed student papers, of these, five were selected. Winners will be presenting tomorrow at 8:30, session number 484. Awards will be presented at SMSS business meeting.

Request for \$500 for refunding Jeanne Griffith Award. Ken motioned to approve. Sylvia (and others) seconded. It was approved.

Communications Activities. Sylvia reported about recent articles in Amstat News related to the Data Challenge and other GSS JSM activities. The way the deadlines are for Amstat News, materials for the next issue would be for October. It's good to have something in every issue rather than something longer less frequently.

Newsletter. It was suggested that the newsletter include items that apply to more people. A lot of the newsletter is about awards, which isn't really relevant for many.

Candidates for next election. Jill will be assembling the slate for the next election. Slate needs to be finished by sometime in November.

Revisions to charter for fellows committee. Jill will defer to Wendy. Wendy will need to add blurb to minutes.

Added after the meeting: Wendy will draft a revised charter and will send it to the GSS Executive Committee for approval. The revisions to the charter include the establishment of a Committee to Nominate Fellows and a Charter Committee." The charter is submitted by the Executive Committee to Rick at the ASA. He sends it to the COS Governing Board by the end of November. If they approve it, then it goes to the section for a vote, which takes place during the spring ASA elections. If approved by the section during this vote, then it goes into effect immediately.

Officers' handbook. There is a general handbook from ASA. Some sections have their own handbooks. Wendy is interested in having a GSS handbook. This will be helpful for everyone.

Adjourned.