Section on Government Statistics
Executive Committee Meeting
March 11, 2016; 12:00 pm
Location: ASA Headquarters, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

Minutes – Jennifer Parker

Final

1. In attendance: Michael Hawes, Jenny Thompson, Wendy Martinez, Amy O’Hara, Morgan Earp, Jennifer Parker, Michael Davern, Rick Peterson

Ron Wasserstein welcomed the meeting.

a. ASA Statement on p-values and statistical significance. The ASA has gotten 47 thousand views on webpage. Not just statisticians are looking at it. There is a lot of social media interest. 538 and Nature picked it up.

b. Official launch of the International Prize in Statistics is this week. This prize will be awarded around the same time as the Nobel prizes and will be awarded at ISI in July 2017 (Morocco). The vision of award is to recognize excellence in statistics that shows the power and impact of statistics. It is not intended just for academics who publish theoretical research. Government and industry statisticians doing interesting and important work that makes a difference should be recognized. The prize will reach out to government statisticians all over the world with this message. See www.statprize.org

2. Approval of minutes from December GSS Executive Committee meeting

Minutes were approved.

Action: Jennifer will send December minutes to Bill for posting. Update – done.

3. Finances

a) Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer provided the treasurers report (appended to these minutes).

b) Any Dues changes? Would need to be to ASA by August

The committee discussed the dues and decided not to change the dues. Currently, the dues are $6. The GSS gets $5. ASA charges $1 fee. Students are $1. Goal of the session is to do good things for the members.
4. JSM 2016
   a) Report on invited sessions, topic contributed sessions, and contributed sessions

Morgan sent around information about the JSM by email. We have 4 invited and 11 topic contributed sessions (of these 1 topic contributed poster session). We ended up with 2 more than initially planned due to co-sponsorship. Morgan is putting together the contributed sessions. We have 6 sessions with similar papers and a few sessions with a variety of papers. Morgan is working with other program chairs toward a few co-sponsored sessions. A question was asked about co-sponsorship (co-sponsorship happens later.) Late breaking sessions go through a different process.

b) Roundtables (luncheons and coffee)

Michael H reported on the Roundtables. We have 2 am and 2 lunch roundtables: Gordon Willis from NCI, Rochelle Tractenberg from Georgetown, Zachary Seeskin from Northwestern, and Ingegerd Jansson from Statistics Sweden. GSS will pay their registration for the roundtable.

c) GSS Data Challenge 2016

Wendy’s report:
   • We have 15 entries.
   • Ten are giving talks in 2 topic-contributed sessions. These take place on Tuesday.
   • There are five speed posters. These take place on Monday. We need judges from GSS.
   • I will be sending out judging criteria to candidates and judges.
   • We should be able to announce the award at our GSS membership meeting, which is usually on the Tuesday evening.
   • Thanks to one of the candidates, we have the opportunity to edit a special issue of Computational Statistics that will focus on this Data Challenge.

   Judges: Morgan, Jennifer (back up) and Wendy (breaking ties). Wendy will contact Nancy Bates as another judge (update, Nancy agreed to be a judge).

d) Executive Board Meeting and Business Meeting planning

Mike will submit requests for these meetings. Tuesday morning and evening will be the usual times, 7:00 am for executive and 5:30 or 6:00 for the business/social meeting. We discussed using NORC’s conference room for the executive meeting.

Update: Mike has submitted the requests and reserved NORC’s conference room for the executive meeting.

There was a lot of discussion about increasing participation in the business meeting. Some ideas raised include: bigger room, open bar, drink tickets, raffles (baseball tickets), other incentives or promotional items. To get a bigger room we need to exaggerate expected attendance. We further discussed promotional items and the need for a great logo for the materials. Students, in particular, like these items. ASA can create logo at no cost to section.
e) CE Course Proposals

CE credits. Rick said that we didn’t submit any proposals that were accepted this year. (our one submission got rejected). More generally, our courses tend to not do well at JSM. Possibly because WSS does it well in DC and it can be hard for government attendees to add courses to their registration fees.

5. Awards

a) Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

No submissions so far. Due April 1. We usually get them the week leading up to deadline.

b) Roger Herriot Award (update)

These nominations are due April 1. Dave Hubble is chairing the committee. Announcement in newsletter.

c) Wray Jackson Smith Award (update)

Committee is set up. Mike will follow up with this.

d) 2016 Student Paper Competition

Michael Hawes. There were close to 30 submissions, high quality. Diverse set of winners topically. A list of the winners is attached to these minutes. All have confirmed and registered.

e) 2015/2016 Pat Doyle Award.

The past, present and upcoming section chairs for GSS choose the winner for this award. This award is for service to government statistics. There will phone conference with chairs (chair, chair elect, and past chair) by the end of April or May to decide this.

6. Conference Sponsorship – Reminders

a) Seasonal Adjustment Workshop

Report from Wendy
• Based on inputs from our December meeting, the GSS is sponsoring a seasonal adjustment workshop.
• Thanks to Jenny who got things rolling with Kathy McDonald-Johnson at Census.
• It will take place at the BLS on November 4.
• It might be co-sponsored with WSS and the ASA Business and Econ section.

The committee approved $500 for catering. (Caterer can bill ASA directly.)
7. Council of Sections report

Jenny reported that bullet points describing our section were provided to the ASA. She hasn’t gotten the charter to review. Opening remarks covered other updates.

8. Communications Activities

Nothing

9. Other Business and Close

a) Update on corporate sponsorship
b) Ethical Guideline Revision

Michael is on the Committee on Professional Ethics in Statistics. New document on Ethics is more current, accessible and will be rolled out at JSM this year (link found at http://community.amstat.org/ethics/home)

Rick Peterson: Elections coming soon.

GSS Charter will be on the ballot. (New item: GSS will have a committee on nominating fellows.)

RP – as an aside, we need to do a better job of keeping the websites up to date, including deadlines. ASA is going to move the webpages of the sections to microsites.

Update: see email below about transition of GSS webpage

10. Adjourn

List of items below:
Treasures report
Email about transition of GSS webpage
Student prize winners
Treasurer’s Report – March 2016  
Government Statistics Section  
Jennifer Parker

Prepared: March 9, 2015

## Account

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<td>Balance November 30, 2015:</td>
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<td>Balance February 29, 2016</td>
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## Selected sources of revenue and expense

**Revenue:**
- Membership dues 1/1/15-11/30/15: $1,012.00
- Membership dues 11/30/15-2/29/16: $374.00
- Joint Section Revenue Allocation 12/31/15: $1,181.58

**Contributions/sponsorship**
- USDA 9/15: $400.00
- ERS 9/29/15: $400.00
- BEA 12/17/15: $400.00
- EIA 1/5/16: $400.00
- Census 1/27/16: $400.00

**Expenses:**
- Nothing major (credit card fee 12/31/15, $10.18)

## Membership

<table>
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<tr>
<td>2/16:</td>
<td>418 GSS, 369 GSS/SSS [91 of the GSS members are ‘free’]</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15:</td>
<td>419 GSS, 354 GSS/SSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/15:</td>
<td>419 GSS, 361 GSS/SSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15:</td>
<td>436 GSS, 359 GSS/SSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Raphael André Fraser  
Division of Biostatistics, Medical College of Wisconsin  
"Approximate Median Regression for Complex Survey Data with Skewed Response"  
rfraser@mcw.edu

Katherine R. McLaughlin  
Department of Statistics, University of California, Los Angeles  
"Modeling Preferential Recruitment for Respondent-Driven Sampling"  
kmclaughlin@ucla.edu

Xu Qin  
Quantitative Methods in Education and Human Development, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago  
"Analyzing Heterogeneous Causal Mediation Effects in Multi-Site Trials With Application to the National Job Corps Study"  
xuqin@uchicago.edu

Joshua Snoke  
Department of Statistics, Penn State University  
"General and Specific Utility Measures for Synthetic Data"  
snoke@psu.edu

Jessica Wengrzik  
GESIS - Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences  
"Motivated Underreporting and Response Propensity Do persons likely to respond give better answers to filter and eligibility questions?"  
jessica.wengrzik@gesis.org
Soon the ASA will no longer provide web space for section websites. See below.

Bill Wong

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Peterson, Rick <rick@amstat.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 5:15 PM
Subject: GSS Website
To: "Wong, William" <bjwg@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Thompson, Katherine J." <katherine.j.thompson@census.gov>, "Davern, Michael E." <davern-michael@norc.org>, "Harmon, Lara" <lara@amstat.org>

Hi Bill,

Soon the ASA will no longer provide web space for section websites. There are a couple of good reasons we are moving in this direction. The main one being we’ve had some security issues with the websites and malware was infecting some sites. So, we are moving all sections to microsites. Microsites are extensions of the ASA Community area of the ASA website. They are open to the public, have the same look and feel of a normal website, and have all the functionality needed for a section’s web presence. The advantages to microsites are they are secure and one doesn’t need any web software or expertise to keep the microsites updated. There is an admin back door interface that makes updating the sites as easy as updating a MS Word document. Plus, multiple persons can be give admin rights so the responsibility of keeping the microsite updated does not have to fall on any one person. Most sections are already using microsites and are enjoying their ease. Here are some examples:
http://community.amstat.org/sbss/home
http://community.amstat.org/biop/home
http://community.amstat.org/spes/home
http://community.amstat.org/cnsl/home

We would like to begin moving all of the remaining sections to a microsite before the end of April. Before then Lara Harmon from the ASA office will contact you to get you started. She has already created a framework for the GSS microsite and will help you tweak it to meet the needs of the section. She also provide admin training on the microsites and assist with moving content over from your current website.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best regards,
Rick

Rick Peterson
Professional Development & Chapters and Sections Manager

American Statistical Association
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®
732 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
(703) 684-1221 Ext. 1864
Fax: (703) 684-3768
www.amstat.org