American Statistical Association  
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences  
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2021

Attendees: Ann Brearley (Chair), Laila Poisson (Past Chair), Bob Oster (Treasurer), Heather Hoffman (Publicity Officer), Brandon George (Program Chair-Elect), Doug Landsittel (Portal Co-Director), Amy Nowacki (ASA Fellows Nominations Chair), John Doucette (Blog Editor), Jesse Troy (Secretary), Ed Gracely (Webmaster), Maria Ciarleglio (Past Program Chair), Ada Youk (Career Development Chair), Jose-Miguel Yamal (Council of Sections Representative), Tom Braun (Webinars), Jacqui Hicks (Chair-Elect)

Not in Attendance:, Travis Loux (Resource Review Editor), Carol Bigelow (Portal Co-Director), Jaya Satagopan (Program Chair)

CALL TO ORDER
Ann called the meeting to order at 1:00pm (Eastern).

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF March 2021 MINUTES
Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 19th, 2021 meeting. Motion was approved.

TREASURY REPORT
- Bob reported that the balance as of Feb 28th was $18,700, including income from member dues and interest. There have been no expenses so far this year.

JSM UPDATE
- It was announced by e-mail that JSM will be virtual this year.
  - Laila mentioned that even though JSM is virtual we still need to make sure our meetings are on the JSM schedule so the conference attendees can see our sessions on the cell phone app that people use while attending the meeting.
  - The group discussed the possibility of having the executive committee meeting either before JSM starts or later in the day (instead of 7:30am). Ann will investigate.
- The following list of invited and contributed sessions, and roundtables was provided by Jaya and Brandon in e-mail prior to the session.

April 16, 2021
TSHS JSM 2021 update

For TSHS program – as of April 16, 2021.

INVITED SESSION

TOPIC CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS
1. Engaging Minority and Underserved Populations in Health Science: Education and Training for Careers in Statistics and Data Science. Organized by Madhu Mazumdar, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai. Panel Discussion
2. Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences: Innovations, Updates, and Best Practice. Organized by Philip Martin Sedgwick, University of London. **Oral presentations**

3. Teaching anti-racism in statistical training: progress and needs. Organized by Amy Laird, Oregon Health and Science University. **Oral presentations**

**CONTRIBUTED ABSTRACTS**

1. A job-ready assessment for post-graduate level introductory biostatistics course. Darsy Darssan, The University of Queensland
2. A Markov Chain Approach to Coupon Collector’s Problem. Ilhan Izmirli (affiliation not provided)
3. Data Science in Health Sciences for High School Students. Mine Dogucu, University of California, Irvine
4. Updating an Introductory Biostatistics course to support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Transparency. Priya Srikanth, Oregon Health and Science University
6. Strategies for Teaching Methods for Analyzing Data and the Necessary Computer-Based Programming to MPH Students. Amanda Ellis, University of Kentucky

**ROUNDTABLES**

1. Developing Pathways for Entrance into Biostatistics Programs. Amanda Rae Ellis, University of Kentucky. **AM Roundtable**
2. Best Approaches to Teaching Statistics Online. Hoang Nguyen, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. **PM Roundtable**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

- Ada Youk joined the committee and introduced herself. Ada is Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh. Ada is also Director of the Master of Science degree in Biostatistics and will begin serving as Vice Chair for Education in the Summer of 2021. Ada has been at Pitt since the late 1990s where she started her career in occupational epidemiology, followed by work at the Veterans Administration, and is now focusing on education. Ada reports that she currently has one faculty member who is interested in mentoring.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

- Laila – a description of the Outstanding Section Service Award is posted on the TSHS Website. They sought recommendations from the past section chairs through e-mail and received some suggestions. The deadline to nominate someone for the remaining awards (Young Investigator, Outstanding Teaching, and Distinguished Achievement) is May 15, 2021. Laila will send a reminder for nominations to the section listserv.

**UPDATING THE TSHS SECTION HANDBOOK**

- From Ann by email in the Agenda:
  - “Carol’s draft from last fall is attached (“ASA TSHS Operations Manual v1 2020 2020-10-16.docx”)
i. We need to revise to match the recently revised section charter
ii. We probably need to revise to match what we actually do
iii. I think we did part of a round of edits last fall ... I have Maria Ciarleglio's edits on the program chair role. Were there more?

• How to proceed? One section at a time? One per month?
• One volunteer to do the bulk of the revisions to a given section, then circulate to all for additional edits? Different volunteers for each section? Assign people to check sections for their current and/or past positions?"

• Laila mentioned that previously the group had decided to divide up the work, 2 people for each section, and asked the officers and committee chairs to edit their respective sections.

• Bob said he had already sent comments on the Secretary/Treasurer section last fall. After some discussion, the group consensus was that Carol may have collated these comments from everyone.

• Ann will get these comments from Carol and make updates to the document, make the committees match the updated charter, and then send out according to the assignments made last fall.

PUBLICITY UPDATE
• Heather reported that the spring webinar is posted online, and that last fall’s webinar will be posted soon. The request for publications and grants for 2019 to 2021 is in progress.

BLOG UPDATE
• John is in process of updating the officer listing and has sent emails to some of the executive committee members requesting photos or other information.

WEBSITE/YOUTUBE UPDATE
• From Ed in email prior to the meeting:
  o "Ed has been updating the website a bit. Notably, minutes are now up to date. He will take Laila's advice and create a new table of officers above the old one to reflect the new ways we organize positions (for example, we no longer have a 'newsletter editor', and 'secretary/treasurer' has been split into separate positions). The spring webinar is up on the website and YouTube. We have determined that the TSHS Gmail account does in fact have Google Drive and can be used for storage of videos, with 15 GB of available space. Laila has access and will share appropriately."

• Ed suggested that officers post their reports on-line prior to the meeting. The Secretary could then put together the official meeting minutes from these reports combined with discussion that happens at the meeting. After some discussion of this idea, the group agreed this was a good approach. Ann will set up a Google Doc for this purpose and send everyone an invitation.

WEBINARS UPDATE
• Tom reported that Mike Swartz is the tentative speaker for June 11th. He will talk about rubrics and flipped classrooms.

• Ann asked if the session would be scheduled as a meeting or webinar. This needs to be determined in advance of opening the registration. Tom indicated the webinar format is most likely but he will figure this out with the speaker as soon as possible.

PORTAL UPDATE
• Doug reported the following progress on the portal:
  o Carol is writing an article for Chance magazine to better publicize resources.
The current focus is on finding ways to get more datasets. Some ideas are to reach out to people who are running SIBS programs to see if they are willing to share datasets they are using for examples, projects, etc.

- The portal will soon be modified to show a pop-up message reminding people who download data that the data are to be used for educational purposes only.

- Jesse offered one source of example datasets he has used in the past from the Immune Tolerance Network.

COUNCIL OF SECTIONS UPDATE
- Jose-Miguel – no update

FELLOWS NOMINATIONS UPDATE
- Amy – no update until after JSM when she talks to the letter writers.

OTHER BUSINESS
- Ann asked the group whether there are items to be planning for given JSM will be held virtually this year. Laila mentioned the following:
  - The incoming chair for the section and the program chair are usually manning the booth at JSM. We should expect an invitation from Carol Blumberg to participate in a virtual booth.
  - Ann will be invited to attend a meeting of The Council on Sections in Education where she will be asked to present the goals and accomplishments of the TSHS section.

ADJOURNMENT
- Ann adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM Eastern.

NEXT MEETING
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2021 at 1:00pm Eastern.