American Statistical Association
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences
Minutes of the February 20 2017 Conference Call

Attendees: Jose-Miguel Yamal (Chair-Elect), Felicity Enders (Past Chair) Jeff Syzchowski (Chair-Elect), Wenyaw Chen (Program Chair), Amy Nowacki (Past Program Chair), Bob Oster (Secretary/Treasurer), Ed Gracely (Webmaster), Laila Poisson (Newsletter Editor), Carol Bigelow (Council of Sections Representative)

Unable to attend: Kendra Schmid (Program Chair-Elect), Ann Brearley (Publications Officer)

Jose called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

UPDATE ON JSM 2017

Wenyaw provided an update on JSM 2017. He noted that there is 1 invited session, 3 topic contributed sessions, 2 posters, and 1 contributed paper session that currently has 5 talks. He will try to “borrow” 2 talks from other sections in order to have a full complement of 7 talks. It was suggested that he first check with the Statistical Education Program Chair to see if there are 2 education-related talks that he could “borrow”. It was also noted that Kendra has lined up 3 Roundtable discussions as of February 10. Call attendees were pleased with the planned TSHS JSM 2017 program.

MENTORING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jose noted that he has already spoken with Constantine Daskalakis, Chair of the TSHS Mentoring Committee, and that Constantine will soon send emails to TSHS members about opportunities for mentoring.

PORTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Carol provided an update on the TSHS Portal. She first noted that she recently received a new submission from Amy and that she would be following up on this. She then mentioned that Ed and Bob had contacted her about writing an article on the Portal for Chance magazine. She next said that she would like the Portal to have 10 postings before she writes the article (so that the readers would have access to a wider variety of postings). There are currently 5 postings, counting Amy’s. Carol hopes to receive additional postings this spring. It was noted that the Chance article would let readers know of the Portal’s existence, and that this may encourage more submissions. Ed suggested that all datasets that are submitted be posted on the Portal, even if other documentation is lacking in the submission, as there are some educators who may be primarily interested in the dataset itself.

DISCUSSION OF FUNDRAISING EFFORT

Jose and Jeff are in the process of following up on this effort.

TSHS AWARDS AT JSM 2017

Felicity mentioned that TSHS will offer three major awards this year: the Distinguished Achievement Award, the Outstanding Teaching Award, and the Young Investigator Award. She
suggested extending the deadline for the submission of nomination materials. Call attendees agreed to extend the deadline to May 15. Bob mentioned that due to earlier deadlines for the JSM awards booklet, the TSHS 2016 awardees will be recognized in this year’s awards booklet and the TSHS 2017 awardees will be recognized in next year’s awards booklet.

SURVEY OF TSHS MEMBERS

Felicity provided an update on the TSHS survey. She first noted that the goal is for the survey to go out to section members in April. During the intervening weeks, she will select a few members to pilot test the survey. Jose asked for the surveys from this group to be completed by March 15. Ann will provide a demo report on this during the March conference call.

TSHS BOOK REVIEWS

Laila shared her thoughts about the future of TSHS book reviews. She reviewed a document that she prepared, entitled “Evolution of the Book Review to a Resource Page”. The contents of this document are appended to these minutes.

NEXT MEETING

The next conference call will take place on March 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM (Eastern). This will be one hour earlier than the normal call time.

ADJOURNMENT

Jose adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM (Eastern).
Evolution of the Book Review to a Resource Page

Book Review Objective: To help readers become aware of textbooks that they may wish to use with their learners

Options:

- Traditional Review of a single book
  - Create an online book review questionnaire
    - What is the book (title, author/editor, ISBN number)
    - What is the primary objective/topics?
    - For what audience/purpose would this book be best used?
    - Are there special features that make it especially helpful?
    - Are there topics or features that are missing that you (may) want to supplement?
    - Do you have feedback from the students regarding this book?

- Survey of user recommendations with 1-2 mini-reviews
  - E.g., post to discussion board a request for “useful books for Undergrad Public Health Biostat classes” Collect responses. Ask 1-2 to either edit their response or to draft a short review of why they recommend said book.

- Review of non-book materials
  - TSHS Data Portal has curated datasets
  - Simulation tools
  - Software tools
  - Online classes (e.g. NIH)

- Review of teaching instruction
  - Workshops or online tutorials about flipping the classroom or doing online-only instruction