American Statistical Association
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences
Minutes of the August 21 2017 Executive Committee Conference Call

Attendees: Jose-Miguel Yamal (Chair), Jeff Szczkowski (Chair-Elect), Wenyaw Chan (Program Chair), Bob Oster (Secretary/Treasurer), Ed Gracely (Webmaster), Laila Poisson (Newsletter Editor), Ann Brearley (Publications Officer), Carol Bigelow (Council of Sections Representative), Jacqui Milton (Program Chair-Elect-Elect), Katy Wright (Book Review Editor)

Unable to attend: Felicity Enders (Past Chair), Amy Nowacki (Chair-Elect-Elect), Kendra Schmid

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

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Jose-Miguel introduced Katy Wright (of Northwestern University) as the new Book Review Editor. Katy then said a few words, mentioning her teaching of biostatistics courses as well as her collaborations with researchers.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 17 meeting and of the July 31 meeting (at JSM). The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

JSM DEBRIEF

Jose-Miguel began this part of the call by thanking all who helped out with TSHS activities. He thought that these went well. He then thanked all who worked at the joint StatEd/TSHS booth.

Nina Xu, a Stat Ed member and a TSHS member, indicated during JSM that she would like to get involved in our section. We should keep her in mind for specific tasks that need to be done and for ways to get involved.

Discussion then followed about the StatEd/TSHS booth. There was consensus that we should share a booth with StatEd at JSM 2018. Specific suggestions included the following:

- Arrange for volunteers to staff the booth at least one month in advance of JSM.
- Make sure that at least one TSHS member is staffing the booth at all times that the booth is “open”. All TSHS officers should try to volunteer to staff the booth.
- Continue with two-hour blocks of service, but try to ensure that the two-hour blocks are aligned well with ongoing JSM activities, particularly the sessions.
- Decide what materials will be on display at the table well in advance of JSM and send the materials and instructions to the volunteers beforehand.
- Continue to use the poster, as it drew attention to TSHS.
- Place extra copies of the materials underneath the table.

The next item of discussion was the TSHS mixer. Ann mentioned that StatEd had a one-page summary (front and back) at their mixer of all that was going on in the section. In particular, the summary included the business meeting agenda, the list of section award winners, information on CAUSE, the section newsletter, early career helps, new section Fellows, section committees,
a list of current and incoming section officers, and a list of relevant websites. Laila suggested that such a list for TSHS could include a QR code, which would allow attendees to immediately download the list to their smartphones.

The final item of discussion was the speaker evaluations, which are needed so that we can determine the winner of the Best Contributed Paper award. Advantages and disadvantages of paper reviews and e-reviews were discussed. Jose-Miguel will contact ASA about obtaining the results of the speaker evaluations that were performed via the JSM app.

WEBINAR PROGRESS

Jose-Miguel spoke with John Fox about giving a webinar on R Commander. John is interested in doing this.

The logistics of TSHS-sponsored webinars are still being worked out.

Laila spoke with Rebecca Andridge about giving a webinar on online teaching.

Ann volunteered to help organize a few of the webinars.

UPDATES ON FUNDRAISING

Jose-Miguel reported that R Studio has agreed to contribute $500 to TSHS during each of the next three years. These funds would be used to partially support our JSM mixer.

Jose-Miguel is having conversations with other companies that are interested in sponsoring TSHS in 2018. He will keep the executive committee updated on these discussions.

JSM 2018

Jeff asked when we would like to have our executive committee meeting and business meeting and mixer. There was a consensus that our executive committee would remain on Monday morning at 7:00 AM. There was not a clear consensus on whether the business meeting and mixer should remain on Monday night or whether this should be moved to Tuesday night. As we get closer to JSM, Jeff will determine which of these nights has fewer conflicting activities, and will schedule the business meeting and mixer accordingly.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place during on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

ADJOURNMENT

Jose-Miguel adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM (Eastern).