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

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

Unable to attend: Kendra Schmid (Program Chair-Elect), Katy Wright (Book Review Editor)

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

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 16 meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

WEBINARS – UPDATE

Jose-Miguel provided an update on potential webinars. He said that it is not feasible for us to have a webinar in December due to the timing and availability of the speaker. He will try to arrange for John Fox to do a webinar on R commander in mid-to-late January 2018. Jeff will follow up with Jose-Miguel on this.

Going forward, Jeff will also work closely with those who are coordinating the webinars.

BUDGET UPDATE

Bob will follow-up on the budget and treasury issues that he described during the October 16 conference call. These include working with ASA staff to determine the discrepancy between the actual cost (to TSHS) of the mixer and the quote that we had received a few weeks prior to JSM, and communicating with R Studio and Stata regarding the sponsorships that they agreed to provide to TSHS.

JSM 2018 CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS – UPDATE

Potential topic contributed sessions were the primary topic of discussion. Felicity mentioned that we need to go ahead and get commitments from speakers for the TSHS topic contributed sessions. Jose-Miguel said that he would ask Kendra to send out an email to the group regarding progress that she has made in arranging these sessions. Jose-Miguel will follow-up with Kendra the week after Thanksgiving.

Potential topics for topic contributed sessions that were discussed on the call include the following:

- Incorporating data science (big data) in introductory biostatistics courses
- Incorporating bioinformatics analysis in courses that we teach to medical students and fellows
• Something along the lines of online teaching
• Something along the lines of group activities in class

Felicity suggested that case study examples be used for the first two ideas.

BEST PAPER AWARD UPDATE (FOR JSM 2017)

Wen will ask Rick Peterson at ASA about obtaining the data from the evaluations made during JSM using the JSM app.

NEWSLETTER/BLOG UPDATES

Laila mentioned that she completed the fall issue of the newsletter and sent out an email reminder to TSHS members about this.

She then provided an update on the potential TSHS blog. Items of discussion included WordPress, web addresses, advertisements supporting the use of free blogs, and capabilities of a blog being able to support webinars.

One idea that was mentioned is to obtain a contribution from a software company, and in return, put its logo on the main blog page. Another idea is to have something more focused towards Google. It was also mentioned that the executive committee should vet all ads for the blog to make sure that they are of potential interest to section members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Carol noted that the annual section report is due on December 20. There is a new form this year for this report. There is also an annual survey to be completed.

Carol then mentioned that the review of the section charter needs to take place soon. All proposed changes are due in to the ASA on December 20. These changes are to be sent in via email. Section members will then vote on these proposed changes in the 2018 ASA elections.

Bob noted that he submitted the 2018 TSHS budget on time (the deadline was October 30). He said that the new budget is similar to the 2017 budget. For the new budget, he factored in the contributions from Stata and R Studio (already confirmed) and also accounted for the fact that the TSHS Distinguished Achievement Award will not be offered in 2018.

Ed will follow up to see whether the TSHS website is already updated regarding the section awards. This includes making sure that pictures of this year’s award winners are posted and also making sure that updated awards information (for 2018) is posted.

It was noted that the TSHS email address is tshs.section@gmail.com.

Bob suggested that the executive committee make sure that the TSHS officer information for 2018 appears on the section website and also in the newsletter.

Jose-Miguel mentioned that Maria Ciarleglio at Yale University is interested in getting involved in the section. He will follow-up with her about areas that she could be involved in.
NEXT MEETING

Jeff announced that the next conference call will take place on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 1:00 PM (Eastern). Subsequent conference calls will be held on the third Monday of the month. Jeff will chair these calls as he is the section chair for 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Jose-Miguel adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM (Eastern).