**American Statistical Association**

**Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences**

**Minutes of the January 8 2018**

**Executive Committee Conference Call**

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

Unable to attend: Jacqui Milton (Program Chair-Elect), Katy Wright (Book Review Editor), Maria Ciarleglio (invited to participate on the call)

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

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 20 meeting, subject to a minor correction being made at the bottom of page 2. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.*

Bob will send around a final version of the minutes to the executive committee (EC).

**OFFICER LIST AND MONTHLY CALL SCHEDULE**

It was noted that Felicity Enders and Wenyaw Chen have now rotated off of the EC. Call attendees expressed thankfulness for their service to the section.

Jeff noted that the February conference call will be held on February 12 (due to President’s Day being on February 19) and that subsequent calls will be held on the third Monday of the month. He will send Outlook invites for these calls.

Jeff will arrange for a new call-in number for the EC to use during 2018.

The TSHS officer list for 2018 was reviewed and approved.

**ANNUAL REPORT AND CHARTER REVISIONS**

Carol sent the most recent versions of the 2017 annual report and the proposed charter revisions to the EC. She noted that both of these items were submitted to ASA by the due dates.

Jeff thanked Carol for all of her efforts with both of these.

Carol will now begin updating the TSHS Handbook.

**WEBINARS – UPDATE**

Jose-Miguel provided an update on our upcoming webinar. He said that John Fox will be presenting “Using R Commander in Basic Statistics Courses” on February 15. The webinar training will take place in late January. Rick Peterson at the ASA will help to facilitate the webinar and the webinar training. Registration will be required; however, there will be no registration fee. Expenses to TSHS will include the ASA production fee, vendor charges, and an honorarium to the presenter (John).

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Bob will follow up next week on the budget and treasury issues that he previously described to the EC. 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**

Kendra noted that titles, a list of presenters, and abstracts for topic contributed sessions are due in to ASA later this week. She previously sent 3 ideas out to TSHS members via email. Other possible ideas for these sessions were discussed.

Jeff inquired whether travel budgets for JSM participants are an issue for all ASA sections. He also wondered whether submissions for topic contributed sessions (for all sections) were lower than they have been in previous years.

Kendra then noted that one advantage of a topic contributed session is that only one abstract needs to be submitted. However, commitments are required from all session presenters.

Any other ideas for topic contributed sessions and presenters should be sent to Kendra as soon as possible.

**BEST PAPER AWARD UPDATE (FOR JSM 2017)**

Based on the results of the JSM 2017 session evaluations, the EC decided that there would be two best paper award winners. This was due to the fact that two presentations received excellent and essentially identical evaluations.

The award winners and their respective presentations are as follows:

Winner #1: Kari Lock Morgan, Penn State University

“Redesigning Introduction to Biostatistics”

Winner #2: Leah Welty, Northwestern University

“StatTag: a New Tool for Conducting Reproducible Research in Clinical and Translational Science”

Wenyaw Chen will be asked to write an article for our newsletter about these awards.

Bob will get in touch with Rick Peterson at the ASA regarding these awards. The EC decided that Bob will ask Rick to send each winner the award check (for $100) and the award certificate. These winners will be briefly recognized at the TSHS business meeting and mixer at JSM 2018.

**NEWSLETTER/BLOG UPDATES**

There were no new updates.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**NEXT MEETING**

Jeff reminded call attendees that the next conference call will take place during on February 12, 2018 at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM (Eastern).