

Minutes of the Business Committee Meeting
Section on the Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences
Monday, August 5, 2013, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting commenced with a welcome by the Section Chair, Steve Grambow, who asked section officers to introduce themselves. Following introductions, summaries of ongoing activities were presented.

Carol Bigelow, Past Section Chair, provided an update on the THSH Resources Portal, which will be designed for use by teachers of statistics to students in the health sciences. This initiative is currently supported by a modest one-year member initiative grant from ASA, with the intention that it will become sustained by the TSHS membership over time. TSHS is partnering with the United States Conference On Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) in this endeavor. Formative steps taken at the May, 2013 USCOTS meeting in Research Triangle Park, resulted in adoption of a governance structure and appointment of subcommittees. Three primary goals have been set for this first year of activity: (1) Piloting of the first of several planned clusters of resources, which will be focused on data sets for educational use with accompanying materials for teachers. (2) Development of a solicitation plan, preferably in terms of a submitted grant for obtaining the next three years of support. (3) Development of a plan for showcasing the portal at JSM 2014. The report on the first year of activities is due in to ASA April 1, 2014. Carol announced that a dinner meeting would be held following the mixer for anyone interested in more information. Anyone who would like to participate was cordially invited to contact Carol for more details.

Jodi Lapidus, Council of Sections representative, summarized the COS meeting. Points mentioned included attendance figures (just over 5700 JSM attendees), the declining revenue associated with ASA journals, a modest contemplated increase in ASA dues, and the upcoming 175th anniversary year of the ASA, which is the second oldest professional society in North America. A summary of ASA presidential initiatives was also given, which will include establishment of several portals and an update of the GAISE guidelines for statistical education issued ten years ago. Also mentioned were the possible interactions of the ASA with the Big Data Movement, and how these might inform computer science and informatics additions to the statistics curriculum.

Two awards were announced at the TSHS business meeting: the TSHS Outstanding Teacher Award to Roger D. Vaughan (Columbia University) and the TSHS Distinguished Achievement Award to Cynthia R. Long (Palmer College of Chiropractic).

TSHS-sponsored sessions at JSM were highlighted, and attendees were reminded that preparations for next year's program were already in progress, and their input would be welcome.

The treasurer's report, and membership report were summarized by Deborah Dawson. Details, as well as the full Executive Committee minutes are provided online.

The meeting concluded at 6:20 p.m. and was followed by the section mixer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah V. Dawson, Ph.D.
Secretary-Treasurer, TSHS