American Statistical Association  
Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) Section  
Minutes of Annual Executive Committee Meeting  
August 8, 2005

The meeting began at 7:05 AM and was conducted by Walter Ambrosius, Chair. Other attendees were Robert Oster (Past Chair), Cynthia Long (Chair-Elect), Marlene Egger (Chair-Elect-Elect), Patrick Arbogast (Program Chair 2005), Janet Tooze (Program Chair 2006), Patrick Tarwater (Program Chair 2007), Lynn Ackerson (Council of Sections Representative 2004-2006), Renee Stolove (Publications Officer), Ed Gracely (Newsletter Editor), Dan Byrne (Book Review Editor). Reena Deutsch (Secretary/Treasurer 2004-2005) arrived approximately 7:30 AM.

Introductions were made. Robert Oster announced that the Distinguished Achievement Award will be given to Stephen Looney. This is the first time the section will give this award. It is accompanied by a $1000.00 check and is available every two years.

Patrick Arbogast reported that the TSHS sessions at JSM 2005 include a contributed paper session Tuesday at 10:30 AM and an invited paper session on Wednesday at 2 PM. Janet Tooze announced that there will be three roundtable luncheons from our session at JSM this year, and none have sold out. She also mentioned that a session on illustrating concepts without equations will be on the JSM 2006 program, and that there is already one confirmed speaker.

Renee Stolove gave the publications report and invited everyone to submit articles for Amstat News. Oster and Stolove will write an article on the awards given by our section, and Stolove offered to write additional articles as needed.

Arbogast asked about the awards to be given for contributed and invited sessions, and he offered to prepare evaluation forms to determine which speakers will earn the awards. Ed Gracely gave an update on the TSHS newsletter. He welcomes new articles and mentioned that he has received several positive comments on the newsletter.

Lynn Ackerson gave the Council of Sections (CoS) report. Various topics that were discussed at the CoS meeting included:
1. The differences between ASA sections vs. special interest groups
2. Attendance at JSM sessions (ASA is checking on how many members of each section attend JSM, how many people are present at each section’s sessions, multi-section members count as multi-people)
3. All section surveys must be processed and approved by the ASA survey committee prior to distribution to the section.
4. The format of future JSMs will remain the same: mid-Sunday through mid-Thursday.
5. JSM Proceedings will be free to all JSM registrants at future JSMs.
6. The JSM program will be available on CD for $10 for future JSMs.
7. Section charters are on the ASA website and TSHS will have a link.
8. Special interest discussion sessions in roundtable format may be available in the future as an alternative to expensive roundtable luncheons.
9. The deadline for Continuing Education (CE) course submissions is September 30, 2005.
10. A welcome letter for new section members may be available.
11. Discussion followed that our section does not do enough outreach and that we need to follow-up on new members, not just send meeting announcements. However, it was brought up that our section newsletter already does that.

Reena Deutsch distributed the Treasurer’s report (See Treasurer’s Report). We are in solid financial shape, and our balance increased from $9,279 to $10,629. Deutsch discussed what some items mean and that we have not paid this year for website maintenance, but last year we paid $1000 as a “catch-up” stipend from not paying for the three previous years. Ambrosius said he will follow up on payment for the website this year. It was brought up that Ralph O’Brien’s JSM CE course is a money-maker for the section. A preliminary draft of the 2006 budget was also distributed and input was sought from attendees. Discussion took place regarding membership numbers, including student members, membership fees, and other items.

Ambrosius introduced Chair-Elect-Elect Marleen Egger who will be Section Chair in 2007 and Patrick Tarwater, Program Chair 2007 who will organize roundtable luncheons for JSM 2006. Tarwater mentioned he will be unable to attend tonight’s section business meeting and mixer in spite of hoping to recruit roundtable luncheon presenters for next year’s JSM. A volunteer will recruit for him and send him details. Gloria Caldito is the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer for 2006-2007 but was unable to attend this meeting.

Ambrosius asked for general discussion from attendees. Various topics and items were brought up including:
1. Timing of TSHS mixer changed from the traditional Wednesday to Monday this year to avoid conflict with the Statistical Education session, but Tuesday may be looked into for future meetings to avoid overlap with the Statistical Consulting section meeting.
2. Door prizes for our mixer were discussed, and $300 was unanimously voted as the budget to buy books for door prizes.
3. A TSHS officer should attend the New Chair meeting at JSM.
4. ASA requires that the section Treasurer must always approve payments from our section funds.
5. Ideas to get more contributed talk sessions included allowing both technical and teaching topics, joining with the Statistical Education section (this was supposed to be investigated by Madge Haven when brought up at last year’s meeting), joining with the Statistical Consulting section, and advertising the award for Topic Contributed session (but we need to budget for this).
6. It was mentioned that TSHS should have a representative to the ENAR planning committee every other year, alternating with the Section on Statistics Education, and that Todd Nick will be representing TSHS for ENAR 2006. The TSHS Executive Committee will appoint a TSHS representative for ENAR 2008 at a later time. The ASA Section on Statistical Education appoints a representative in the odd years.
7. Sponsorship of the Statistics in Medicine session at IASE’s ICOTS-7 meeting in Brazil in 2006 was brought up, and Deutsch will contact the ICOTS-7 organizers about this.
8. Janet Tooze and Arbogast suggested that there be a joint membership between the Stat Ed and TSHS sessions for a reduced price.

And finally, Renee Stolove was appointed to another two-year term as Publications Officer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Reena Deutsch, Ph.D.
TSHS Secretary 2004-2005