American Statistical Association (ASA)
Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) Section
Minutes of the Annual Executive Committee Meeting
August 7, 2006

The meeting started at 7:00 AM with Cyndy Long (Chair) presiding. Others in attendance were Walter Ambrosius (Past Chair), Bob Oster (2004 Chair), Marlene Egger (Chair-Elect for 2007), Scott Evans (Chair-Elect for 2008), Lynn Ackerson (Council of Sections or COS) representative, Janine Janosky (2007 COS representative), Patrick Arbogast (Past Program Chair), Jodi Lapidus (2008 Program Chair), Ed Gracely (Newsletter Editor), and Gloria Caldito (Secretary/Treasurer) who arrived at 7:15.

Introductions were made. Cyndy Long mentioned that the section has three new officers, namely, Scott Evans of Harvard School of Public Health, Janine Janosky of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Jodi Lapidus of Oregon Health and Science University. She reported that as of 22 July 2006, the section has 643 members 114 of whom are nonpaying members. She clarified who gets free membership. To encourage membership in sections, ASA members are allowed to try free membership for a year in three sections they do not currently belong to. She asked Patrick Arbogast about the email listervs. Patrick said he will continue to maintain them and that he updates them twice a year in January and June. On behalf of Janet Tooze (2006 Program Chair) who could not make it to the JSM this year, Cyndy mentioned that our section has a session on invited papers entitled Teaching Biostatistics to Health Care Professionals without Equations scheduled on Tuesday August 8 at 8:30 to 10:20 AM and a session on contributed papers entitled Challenges and Innovative Methods for Teaching Biostatistics in the Health Sciences scheduled on Monday August 7 at 2:00 to 3:50 PM.

Patrick Tarwater (2007 Program Chair) was not present to report on the 2006 Roundtable sessions, the 2007 Program sessions, and the 2007 ENAR Spring program. However, he sent an email to the Executive Committee about the following items he intended to report on at both the Executive Committee and Business meetings on Monday morning and evening, respectively.

1. At this year’s JSM, there will be two coffee roundtables - one during the Business meeting on Monday evening and the other on Tuesday morning. One luncheon roundtable was cancelled as only one enrolled in it.
2. Walter has organized a good invited session for the 2007 JSM program.
3. For the 2007 ENAR meeting, there will be an introductory lecture session on Group Randomized Trials, a session on New Methods Using Statistical Graphics as Tools in Addressing Research Questions, and a session on Software Packages for Handling Missing Observations.

Walter Ambrosius reported that the invited session for the 2007 JSM Program will be on the Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics (SIBS) program supported by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at Boston University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Wisconsin. This is a comprehensive six-week summer training course on biostatistics with relevant examples that include data collected
in studies of heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders and is designed to address a growing imbalance between the demand and supply for biostatisticians. It targets undergraduates who are interested in learning about biostatistics. Walter said he has invited a representative from each of the three universities and NHLBI to present a paper on their SIBS program. He had earlier emailed the executive committee for recommendations for a discussant.

Gloria Caldito provided everybody with copies of her Treasurer’s Report for the period August 2005 to July 2006. (See attached Treasurer’s Report). As of 31 July 2006, our section has a fund balance of $11,845.25, an increase of $987 over last year’s (on 8/1/2006) balance of $10,858.09. She also distributed copies of her estimate of our section’s budget for January to December 2007. Assuming about the same revenue and expenses as last year’s, there will be a surplus of $930 to be added to our cash on hand by 31 December 2006. In estimating the revenue from member dues, she assumed the entire $7 member fee goes to the TSHS section fund. Walter said $1 actually goes to ASA. Since there are currently 515 paying members, the estimated surplus is $415, not $930.

Lynn Ackerson remarked that ASA would like sections to spend their money (up to half of their fund balance) to benefit the section members rather than accumulate it. Scott Evans suggested a one day conference during the year. Cyndy said more ideas would be solicited during the business meeting.

Ed Gracely asked for contributions to the next issue of the TSHS Newsletter. Bob Oster was appointed Publications Officer to replace Renee Stolove who had earlier resigned the position to pursue her doctoral program. Jodi Lapidus said she will organize roundtable sessions for the 2007 JSM Program. Cyndy reported that Ralph O’Brien will again offer his power and sample size continuing education course at the 2007 JSM. Todd Nick was not present to report on the 2006 ENAR spring meeting. Cyndy said he did a very good job of representing our section at that meeting.

Lynn Ackerson reported on the following matters discussed at the Council of Sections (COS) meeting.

1. ASA is soliciting recommendations or applications for someone to fill the position of ASA Executive Director as the current director is stepping down. Information is available at the ASA website.
2. There is a SPAIG (Statistical Partnerships among Academe, Industry, and Government) award available to organizations which have shown strong collaboration with one or two of these areas.
3. There will be a COS meeting on Wednesday at 9-11 for publications, officers, newsletter, editors and webmasters.
4. ASA would like members to be aware of the “member get a member” program. If you recommend someone to ASA for membership and he/she ends up joining, you get a $10 kickback on your dues. For example, if you give your student $10 (cost of student membership) to join ASA, you come out even.
5. Among the input regarding poster sessions were: (a) they are better held at lunch time as there are many competing sessions during the regular session
times. (b) The opening mixer on Sunday evening is too distracting of a setting to have posters displayed. (c) ASA should have a session at the JSM on how to make better posters as the current quality of posters do not attract many viewers. ASA should also put up guidelines (on font sizes, templates, etc.) for making posters on its website.

6. It was mentioned that our section has a hard time getting contributed papers at JSM because most department chairs don't give credit or funding for a faculty person giving a talk on teaching as opposed to some statistical issue.

Cyndy reminded everybody about the business meeting in the evening. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Caldito, PhD
TSHS Secretary-Treasurer 2006-2007
American Statistical Association (ASA)  
Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS)  
Treasurer’s Report  
Period: August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2006

ASA TSHS Fund

Beginning Balance (8/1/2005)  $10,858.09

REVENUE

- Member Dues  2,287.00
- Page Charges  225.00
- Section Interest Allocation/Dividend  319.07
- CE/Conf/Proceedings-Net Share  1,623.34

REVENUE SUB-TOTAL  $4,454.41

EXPENSE

- Internet  400.00
- Food Functions  1,616.79
- Awards, Plaques  1,450.46

EXPENSE SUB-TOTAL  $3,467.25

REVENUE – EXPENSE (Net Surplus)  $987.16

Ending Balance (7/31/06)  $11,845.25

Note: The above figures were calculated from the financial reports posted at the ASA website for the TSHS section. Since the financial reports are given for periods beginning with January 1 for any given year, the figures for 8/1/05 to 7/31/06 were obtained by subtracting the totals for 1/1/05 to 7/31/05 from the totals for 1/1/05 to12/31/05 and adding those for 1/1/06 to 7/31/06.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Caldito, Ph.D.  
ASA TSHS Treasurer (January 2006 to December 2007)  
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Prepared August 3, 2006