American Statistical Association (ASA)
Section on Teaching of Statistics in Health Sciences (TSHS)

Minutes of ASA/TSHS Executive Committee Meeting
Vancouver, BC, 8/2/2010 (7-8:30 am)

Present: Motomi Mori (Chair-Elect), Carol Bigelow (Chair-Elect-Elect), Patrick Arbogast (Past Chair), Constantine Daskalakis (Secretary/Treasurer-Elect), Cyndy Long (Council of Sections Representative), Bob Oster (Publications Officer), Ed Gracely (Newsletter Editor)

1. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves. In the absence of Jodi Lapidus (Chair), the meeting was chaired by Motomi Mori (Chair-Elect).

2. New officers

New Section officers are: Motomi Mori (Chair-Elect for 2010), Carol Bigelow (Chair-Elect-Elect for 2010), and Nichole Carlson (Program Chair Elect for 2010)

Currently, there is no clear orientation process for new officers, and consequently Tomi, Constantine, and Carol all reported feeling a little confused as they took up their duties.

- It is the duty of each Chair to orient other officers. Also, officers-elect should get some familiarity with their duties as they assist current officers. Section officers should be more proactive in orienting their successors.


- Jodi, Tomi, Carol, Patrick, Constantine, Cyndy, and Bob need to review what is currently listed under the various sections and propose any necessary changes. Cyndy/Bob will put together proposed edits and pass on to ASA.

Also, the TSHS website has a summary of the duties and guidelines for the Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair (http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA_TSHS/html/chairs.htm) but those are old (2004). There are no existing documents for the duties of the other section officers.

- Tomi will work with Patrick and Jodi (and possibly Bob) to have these updated.
- Carol will be drawing guidelines for the Program Chair and Program Chair Elect positions.
- Constantine will be drawing guidelines for the Secretary/Treasurer position.
These updates will then be circulated and reviewed by the full Executive Committee before becoming final.

3. JSM Program

Both Mary Gray and Nichole Carlson were absent but we briefly discussed the planned JSM sessions.
Carol mentioned that Harry Norton has proposed a 90-minute talk/session on interesting examples in teaching statistics. There was discussion on how this could be accommodated, including a short course, a full session, or even a webinar.

- No decision was made.

Tomi and Bob offered to pick up books as prizes for the evening Business Meeting and Mixer. Decision was made to buy the books using TSHS funds, rather than solicit them for free from publishers (unless offered).

4. Awards

The Distinguished Achievement Award (biannual, $1,000) was given in 2009 and will possibly be given again in 2011.
No Young Investigator Award was awarded this year (annual, $500).
John McGready (Johns Hopkins University) was selected out of 6 nominations to receive the Outstanding Teaching Award (annual, $500).

TSHS will also award both Best Contributed Paper and Best Contributed Poster awards (since we have 4 posters this year) at the end of the meeting.

Carol will present last year’s two Best Paper awards at the TSHS Business Meeting and Mixer. Patrick and/or Tomi will present this year’s Outstanding Teaching Award and Best Poster award at the TSHS Business Meeting and Mixer (this year’s Best Paper award will not be available yet).

Future solicitations for nominations and announcements of awards:

- Guidelines for the Distinguished Achievement Award are posted on the website (http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA_TSHS/html/awards.htm). Patrick and Bob will coordinate on adding the guidelines for the other two TSHS awards.
- Solicitations for nominations for future TSHS awards should go out in late fall (fall TSHS newsletter, AMSTATNews, ASA Community, and possible direct email to members). Bob will draw up a standard template for solicitations for nominations for each of the 3 section awards.
- Constantine will check with Monica on whether last year’s monetary awards have been sent and will coordinate so that this year’s checks go out as well.

5. Membership

Constantine followed up on a report he emailed prior to the meeting. Current TSHS membership is 655. There was some discussion on future activities to energize the TSHS membership.

- Constantine will draft a plan for a newsletter “spotlight series” on different TSHS members' professional activities.
- Patrick, Bob, and/or Constantine will consider writing a brief piece on TSHS awards in AMSTATNews.

6. Budget

Constantine followed up on a report he emailed prior to the meeting. Currently, TSHS has about $13,000 in reserve funds. Those funds can be used to support special initiatives in the future.
• Constantine will draft a budget for next year and pass it to Jodi and Tomi for review and final submission (submission deadline 10/31/2010).

7. Council of Sections (COS)

Cyndy reported on the COS meeting.
(i) ASA has a new tag line. It is also focusing on issues regarding membership growth and student transitioning to full membership.
(ii) ASA has formalized the way it allots invited sessions. The formula has 20% weight for membership, 20% for the members’ JSM registration, and 60% for prior JSM sessions. TSHS’s current allotment is 1 invited session (although proposed sessions can compete for additional invited slots, up to 2 per section).

8. Publications

Bob gave a brief update on AMSTATNews articles, including advertising and solicitation of nominations for major section awards, and announcement of awards.

9. Other updates

Tomi reported on the meeting of ASA’s Education Council (chaired by Rod Little) on general education activities, outreach, etc.

Submitted by Constantine Daskalakis, 9/28/10

Notes added after the meeting

3 speakers (N Donaldson, J Lapidus, VA Norberto Sifuentes) were absent from the invited panel session (#154), but it still had an attendance of ~35 people. The contributed session (#528) had a similar attendance.

Best contributed paper (session #528): Vanessa Xanthakis, Allison Cox, Carlee Moser, Audrey Hendricks, Alisa Manning, Jacqueline Milton, Racher Hunter-Merrill, Sean Lacey, Robin Young, Josee Dupuis, Lisa M Sullivan, “Building the Biostatistics Pipeline”
Best poster (session #258): Laura Pontiggia and Carl Walasek, “Attitudes and Beliefs Toward Statistics of Health Sciences Students”