Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting  
Section on the Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences  
Monday, August 5, 2013

Attendees: Steven Grambow, Carol Bigelow, Robert Oster, Heather Bush, Jeff Szychowski, Constantine Daskalakis, Edward Gracely, Felicity Enders, Jose-Miguel Yamal, Jodi Lapidus, Deborah Dawson

The meeting commenced at 7:05 a.m. with a welcome by the Section Chair, Steve Grambow, who asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Following introductions, a summary of ongoing activities was presented.

Carol Bigelow 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 membership sustained over time.

Since the United States Conference On Teaching Statistics, had invited THSH to leverage our resources with ours, formative steps were taken at the May, 2013 USCOTS meeting in Research Triangle Park, NC. Members of the Portal Committee met with Dennis Pearl, Director of CAUSE (Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education) and the CAUSE Webmaster, Justin Slauson, to discuss ways to address IT needs, for which USCOTS will provide support. Major aspects of IT support include creation of the web page with appropriate linkages and creation of the digital library and indexing.

A governance structure was adopted and subcommittees appointed. The plan is to create a home page from which a cluster of resources would emanate, with clusters being built one at a time. The first such cluster will focus on data sets for educational use, with accompanying materials for teachers. Mr. Slauson has since constructed a “sandbox” on CAUSEweb.org to assist with web site development; activities will focus on creation of a landing site and creation of taxonomies.

Goals for this first year of activity (report due to ASA April 1, 2014) include piloting of the first cluster, development of a funding solicitation plan, preferably in terms of a submitted grant for obtaining the next three years of support, and development of a plan for showcasing the portal at JSM 2014. Carol also noted that she attended the Educational Council Meeting and that this project may dovetail with other, broader ASA initiatives. Currently, many TSHS officers are committed to this project; the possibility of designated, ongoing roles for specific TSHS officers following establishment of the TSHS Portal was also discussed.

Felicity Enders discussed evaluation procedures, including the need for establishment of files and documentation, preferably on the TSHS web site, for maintaining continuity. It was noted that awards would be based on evaluations from contributed sessions only;
Constantine Daskalakis noted the desirability of obtaining evaluations for all sessions, including invited sessions.

Deborah Dawson gave the treasurer’s report, and membership report, which are appended. The treasurer’s report will be updated at the end of the year after final costs for JSM, etc. have been recorded.

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.

Other information highlighted at the COS meeting included the institution of two awards ceremonies, rather than the single ceremony previously held, the application for section status of the special interest group on Medical Diagnosis and Diagnostics, and a new fee schedule for webinars. ASA will add a flat fee of $500-$550 per set-up of live webinars; however, no fee will be levied for pre-recorded or repeat webinars.

Constantine Daskalakis discussed the need for an update of the section handbook, and suggested that descriptions of duties be extended beyond officers to include responsibilities and procedures for committees. Proposed amendments to the handbook will be circulated and then put to a vote by email in September.

Ed Gracely suggested we consider additional outreach to members and recruitment of new members. It was suggested that the section may want to consider recruitment through the TSHS Portal and cross-listings with groups such as CTSA/BERD.

Constantine Daskalakis noted the upcoming session on development of statistics courses for students in the health sciences and indicated that this topic would be the subject of a planned half-day course at JSM 2014.

Carol Bigelow discussed possible ways to showcase the THSH Portal at JSM 2014, including a formal session, a table with informational materials, and/or use of the new electronic poster format. To solicit additional volunteers to work on the Portal project, a dinner meeting would be announced at the 5:30 TSHS business meeting and mixer, to follow immediately after the mixer.

Ed Gracely offered to send out needs and format for the newsletter.

Constantine Daskalakis indicated that he would be happy to continue as section Webmaster for the present.
Bob Oster will disseminate announcement for TSHS awards in a few months; it was noted that the Young Investigator Award was particularly in need of publicity. Two awards are to be given at the TSHS business meeting this year: 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).

Deborah Dawson was reappointed Secretary/Treasurer for another two-year term.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah V. Dawson, Ph.D.
Secretary-Treasurer, TSHS
TREASURER’S REPORT – JSM 2013, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

As of January 1, 2013 $7,219.91 (compared to $7,286.53 as of January 1, 2012)

Revenues 1,590.16
$1,454.00 Member dues:

Section Interest Allocation
136.16 (Interest & Dividends)

(Note that revenues are up slightly, compared to $1356.24 this time last year. The revenues for the year 2012 totaled $2,770.03).

Expenditures $1,000.00
$ 500.00 Outstanding Teaching Award
$ 500.00 Distinguished Achievement Award

Current Balance $7,810.07

Projected Expenses (JSM) 1,980.60 $1,780.60 Food Functions (TSHS Mixer Catering)
$ 200.00 Conference Meeting

Overhead

Projected Balance after JSM $5,829.47
Projected Additional Income 1,371.15 Additional Dues
1,250.00 Interest & Dividends 121.15

Projected End-of-Year Balance $7,200.62

--- Updated Report to Follow ---
MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JSM 2013, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Currently we have 718 members, of which 125 are free memberships (593 paid => $4151). This membership figure is up from 666 members (115 free memberships) at this time last year,

107 new members joining between 01/01/13 and 07/01/13

70 expired but ASA membership still current (vs 130 last year at this time)
61 expired and ASA membership also expired (vs. 96 last year at this time)