American Statistical Association (ASA)
Section on Teaching of Statistics in Health Sciences (TSHS)
Minutes of ASA/TSHS Executive Committee Meeting
Boston, MA, 8/4/2014 (7:00-8:30 am)

Officers present: Constantine Daskalakis (Chair), Steve Grambow (Past Chair), Heather Bush (Chair Elect), Jose-Miguel Yamal (Program Chair), Jeff Szychowski (Program Chair Elect), Bob Oster (Publications Officer), Ed Gracely (Newsletter Editor)

Present by invitation: Felicity Enders (Chair Elect Elect), Carol Bigelow, Cyndy Long (Council of Sections Governing Board), Jeri Mulrow (Education Council), Amy Nowacki

(1) Secretary/Treasurer report (Constantine Daskalakis for Deborah Dawson)
As of 6/30/2014:
- Membership = 691 (573 paying) vs. 718 on 6/30/2013
- Balance = $8,498.62 vs. $7,810.07 on 6/30/2013

(2) Council of Sections report (Cyndy Long for Jodi Lapidus)
- Proposal for a Section on Genomics and Genetics: voting will take place in September via email.
- ASA has renegotiated allotted JSM sessions given to other societies
  - 14 invited sessions returned to ASA
  - The number of allocated invited sessions is a function of membership and the number of contributed/topic-contributed sessions in prior years. TSHS is right at the edge of getting another one.
- Mentoring programs at CSP 2014 and at JSM 2014 (David Morganstein, ASA President Elect; Amarjot Kaur, ASA Committee on Applied Statisticians).
- Positions are open for the Council of Sections Governing Board; nominations invited.
- Student awards. Should students be able to apply for multiple awards across ASA? Students often submit an identical application to two or more sections and can get multiple awards for the same work.
  - ASA is proposing to limit to one nomination/award per student.
  - TSHS proposes that a student be able to apply for one award per JSM abstract, rather than one award per student (thus allowing awards for different work).
(3) Program Chair report (Jose-Miguel Yamal)

- 2 invited sessions (1 from winning the competition); 2 topic contributed; 1 contributed.
- 3 posters.
- 3 roundtables (1 cancelled due to low enrollment & illness, #530).
- Start a TSHS database for the evaluation records of TSHS-sponsored sessions and talks.
- Possible for evaluations to be submitted through the JSM mobile app in the future.

(4) Publications Officer report (Bob Obster, Ed Gracely, Constantine Daskalakis)

- Try to include 2-3 brief articles per year in Amstat News, rather than 1 per year.
  - Announcing award winners.
  - Announcing planned awards and soliciting nominations.
  - Potentially an article on the TSHS portal or other section initiatives.
- Newsletter goes out three times a year.
  - An article about JSM 2014 would be useful: here’s what I learned, here are some tips, etc. Email proposals to Ed Gracely.
- Website
  - Constantine will provide website traffic. Hits have been increasing.
  - There are just a few links under resources. They need to be verified regularly.

(5) Awards (Steve Grambow, Constantine Daskalakis)

- Outstanding Teaching Award (6-7 nominees) to Bart Holland. Will be presented at the TSHS Mixer.
- Young Investigator Award (only 1 nominee) not awarded.
  - Expand criteria to include education research, as well as innovative teaching.
  - Expand time window to 7 years (with existing additional considerations).
  - Need to promote/advertise. Email department chairs (Carol Bigelow has a list of current department chairs)? Physically mail department chairs? Email the Association for Clinical and Translational Statisticians list (Bob, Heather, Steve, and Felicity are all members. Felicity has requested the email list for another purpose already.)
- Criteria for page limits were successfully used this year and will be added to award criteria. Constantine will circulate guidelines for comment.
• Recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award ineligible for any future awards.
• Any past recipient ineligible for the same award in the future.

(6) Chair’s report (Constantine Daskalakis)

• Education Council meeting:
  o PR campaign for high schools is ongoing to interview/videotape ASA members (thisisstatistics.org)
  o Guidelines for undergraduate statistics programs near completion (Nick Horton).
  o ASA training for statistics instructors who are not statisticians (Dick DeVeaux).
  o Proposal for ASA student chapters within institutions led by a faculty advisor. Piloting at three institutions.

• Appointments
  o Bob Oster is reappointed as Publications Officer for 2 years (2015-2016). He will consider succession planning.
  o Ed Gracely is reappointed as Newsletter Editor for 2 years (2015-2016). He will consider succession planning.
  o Constantine Daskalakis is reappointed as Webmaster for 2 years (2015-2016). He will help identify a successor.
  o Charter committee. Bob Oster will chair. Cyndy Long and Ed Gracely will serve as members.
  o Awards committee. Constantine will chair. Heather Bush and Steve Grambow will serve as members.
  o Nominations Committee. Steve Grambow will chair. Constantine Daskalakis and Jodi Lapidus will serve as members.
    ▪ For May 2015 elections: need 2 candidates for the 2017 Section Chair position.
    ▪ Next year, need appointment for Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term: 2016-2017).
  o Committee on Nomination of Fellows.
    ▪ Potential members: Amy Herring, Melissa Begg, Stephen Looney, Scott Evans, Tomi Mori, Nick Horton.
    ▪ Goal: identify TSHS members who might be good candidates for ASA Fellow.
(7) Section Initiatives

- Teaching resources portal (Carol Bigelow)
  - Innovation Challenge (draft circulated for discussion).
  - Work on additional funding.
  - Planned activity for JSM 2015.
  - Potential support of the portal initiative ($500 or $1,000) by TSHS. To be decided in next year’s budget.
  - Coordinate with ASA efforts (David Banks)?

- TSHS continuing education proposal was not accepted. ASA felt it did not have broad enough appeal. Need to rethink future CE proposals.

- Mentoring: a number of mentoring initiatives in progress (David Morganstein, ASA President Elect; Amarjot Kaur, ASA Committee on Applied Statisticians ASA level; various sections).
  - Develop templates on: (i) teaching style; (ii) course plans; (iii) measurable learning objectives.
  - Put together a working group and perhaps have a meeting at JSM 2015.
  - Coordinate with other ASA groups.

- Engagement of students: Community effort has not worked -- need to find other effective ways.

- JSM 2015. Should TSHS have a table? Perhaps more efficient to have joint table with the Statistical Education Section, because of staffing challenges.

- JSM 2015 theme: Statistics, making better decisions.