

**American Statistical Association  
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences  
Minutes of the March 19 2018  
Executive Committee Conference Call**

Attendees: Jeff Syzchowski (Chair), Amy Nowacki (Chair-Elect), Kendra Schmid (Program Chair), Bob Oster (Secretary/Treasurer), Ed Gracely (Webmaster), Jacqui Milton (Program Chair-Elect), Jose-Miguel Yamal (Past Chair), Laila Poisson (Newsletter Editor), Carol Bigelow (Council of Sections Representative), Maria Ciarleglio (invited to participate)

Unable to attend: Ann Brearley (Publications Officer), Katy Wright (Book Review Editor)

Jeff called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 12 meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.*

**TSHS GOOGLE/GMAIL ACCOUNT**

It was noted that the purpose of this account is to capture nominations for our section awards and to have a general account that section members can send their questions to about TSHS. Jeff will make sure that his email is the recovery email for this account. Bob suggested that the recovery email should always belong to the current section chair.

**WEBINAR SUMMARY**

Jeff gave an update on a recently completed webinar [where John Fox presented “Using R Commander in Basic Statistics Courses”]. He noted that the attendance was 24. He also mentioned that there were some technical difficulties at the beginning of the seminar, but that these were resolved within a few minutes.

Call attendees noted that John did a good job with the webinar and that it really was for individuals who want to use R commander in the classroom. Many tips and tricks were covered.

Jeff and Bob will contact Rick Peterson at the ASA to find out the procedure for getting the honorarium of \$250 to John.

It was suggested that the level that the webinar is being taught at be made clear in all promotions of this. Call attendees agreed that this was done for the John Fox webinar. They also agreed to carefully read tentative promotions for future webinars to make sure that this is being done.

It was also suggested that our webinars be advertised more widely and further in advance of the presentation dates.

Jeff will ask ASA for a list of registrants for the webinar. He also intends to conduct a follow-up survey of webinar registrants.

Jeff asked whether TSHS should attempt to do another webinar later this year. Laila mentioned that she has already spoken with Rebecca Andridge about presenting a webinar on online teaching. Laila will ask Rebecca about the possibility of presenting this later on in the year.

Jeff noted that the cost of the John Fox webinar to TSHS is approximately \$900, with \$650 for the production fee and vendor charges and \$250 for the honorarium. He mentioned that ASA outsources the logistics of putting on the webinar, including that of managing the registrations. Call attendees briefly discussed whether TSHS could handle the logistics of putting on a webinar without going through the ASA, and what the potential costs of this would be.

## **TREASURY UPDATE**

Bob provided an update on our treasury.

He noted that our balance at the beginning of the year was \$8,901.02 and that the current balance is \$9,718.02. He mentioned that we had received \$712 for section dues and \$105 in registration fees, which he assumed were from the John Fox webinar. He will follow up with Rick Peterson at ASA to confirm this. He also mentioned that our contributions from Stata (\$5,000) and R Studio (\$500) have not yet been added to the treasury.

## **JSM 2018 SESSIONS – TSHS SPONSORED SESSIONS**

Kendra provided an update on our JSM 2018 sessions. She first noted that a session chair is needed for our 4:00 pm session on Sunday, July 29. She will be happy to serve as the chair but suggested that this would be a good opportunity for a junior faculty or for anyone who has never served as a session chair.

She mentioned that all of our sessions are now set. We have two invited sessions (a third one was picked up by another section), three topic contributed sessions, and one contributed paper session.

Kendra also mentioned that she rearranged the times of some of our sessions so that they would not conflict with sessions offered by the Section on Statistical Education.

## **NEWSLETTER/BLOG UPDATES**

Laila provided updates on our newsletter and on our blog. She noted that she is in the process of setting up a TSHS blog. She is modeling this after the Stat Ed blog. She also mentioned that she sent out an email reminder about the contributions to the spring newsletter. These contributions are due in to her by April 1.

Call attendees suggested that the spring issue of the newsletter be sent out as a PDF and also posted on our new blog.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were a couple of items for other business.

Call attendees discussed whether the John Fox webinar should be posted on the TSHS website. It was agreed that this was a good idea, as the webinar would still be available to section members for free but would not be available to non-members.

Laila will discuss the two major section awards that we are offering this year with Jose-Miguel. These include the Outstanding Teaching Award and the Young Investigator Award.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Jeff reminded call attendees that the next conference call will take place on April 16, 2018 at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 1:42 PM (Eastern).